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Wild Act

3

Rie Takada

TOKYOPOP

VOLUME 3

BY RIE TAKADA

TOKYOPOP®

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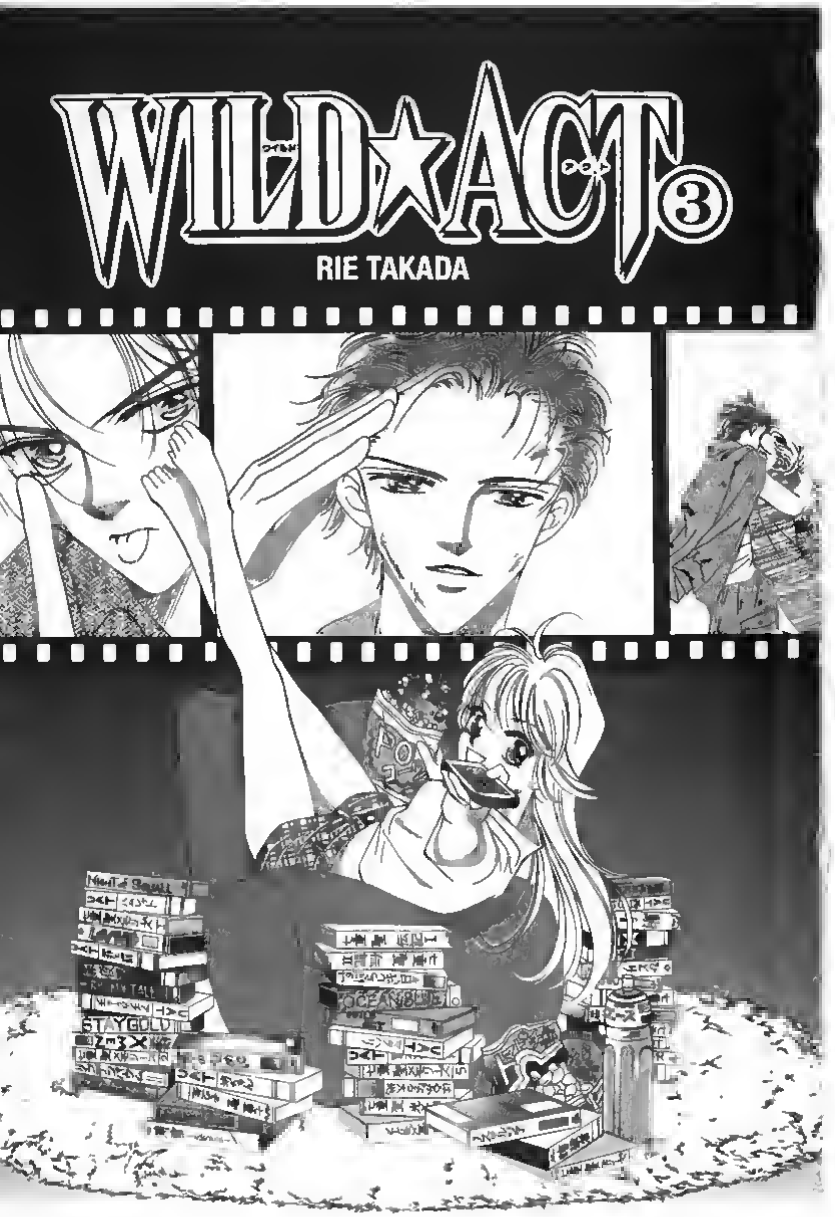

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WILD ACT VOLUME 3

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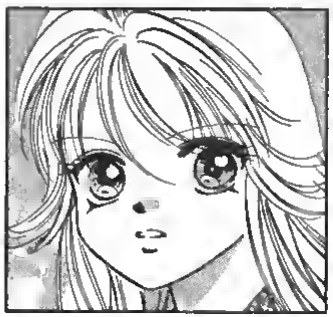
Meet the Characters

Akira Nanae

He was the first Japanese actor to succeed in Hollywood. He was killed in a tragic accident at the young age of 25. Is he really Yuni's father?

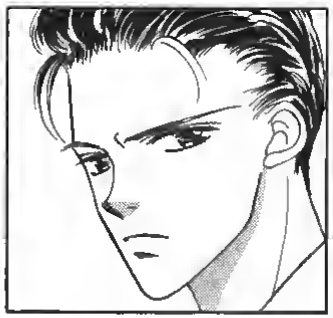


Yuniko Sakuraba

This girl is a Nanae-maniac! She's out to steal back Akira's personal possessions from the fanatical fans who ransacked his belongings after his death. Has feelings for Ryu.

Ryu Eba

He's a popular actor now, though he's only 17 years old. People call him the "New Nanae," but he hates the comparisan. Ryu is in love with Yunika.



Maki Tatsumi

He's young paparazzi in the making. He's out to expose Yunika's past. He only cores about money, ond will do whotever it tokes to get a good scoop!

WILD★ACT ③

The Story So Far:

Yuniko Sakuraba is 15 years old. Her mother, an actress with the UAT Theatre Company, has been in a hospital undergoing long-term treatment. As a result, UAT has looked after Yunika most of her life. However, there's another side to Yuniko—she's also a thief! She's a passionate fan of the late actor Akira Nanae, and she steals his personal belongings that were taken after his death. Yuniko becomes "friendly" with Ryu Eba, a popular actor, during a mission to add to her Akira collection. But her caretaker, Sanae, is against Yuniko dating Ryu!

Suddenly, Ryu joins the UAT Theatre Company, and moves into a room in Yunika's building!

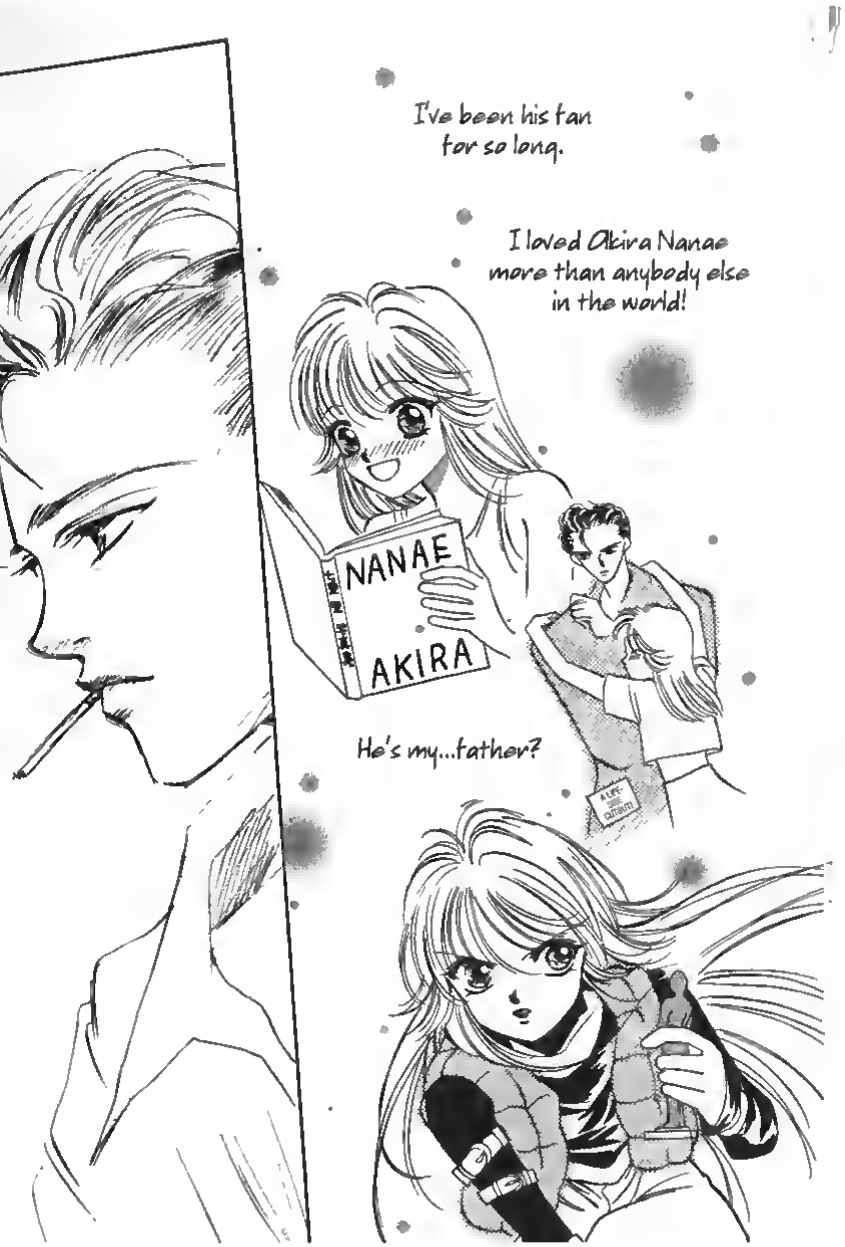
Now, Yunika and Ryu are both attending the same high school. Out of the blue, Maki Tatsumi, a fellow student, says that Yunika is Akira Nonae's daughter! Moki is waiting for the chonce to find the proof and release it to the press. Yunika can't believe the news, but apparently, Ryu already knaws about this—! Is this the secret Ryu and Sanae have been keeping fram her?

RYU...
...IS IT TRUE?
.....
I'M SORRY. I WAS TRYING TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

My father is...
...Ebina Nanae?

BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I can't...
...believe this!
WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DIE FROM SHOCK.

ガクーン
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE BOTH TRYING TO HIDE FROM ME?
DON'T FREAK OUT, YUNIKO!

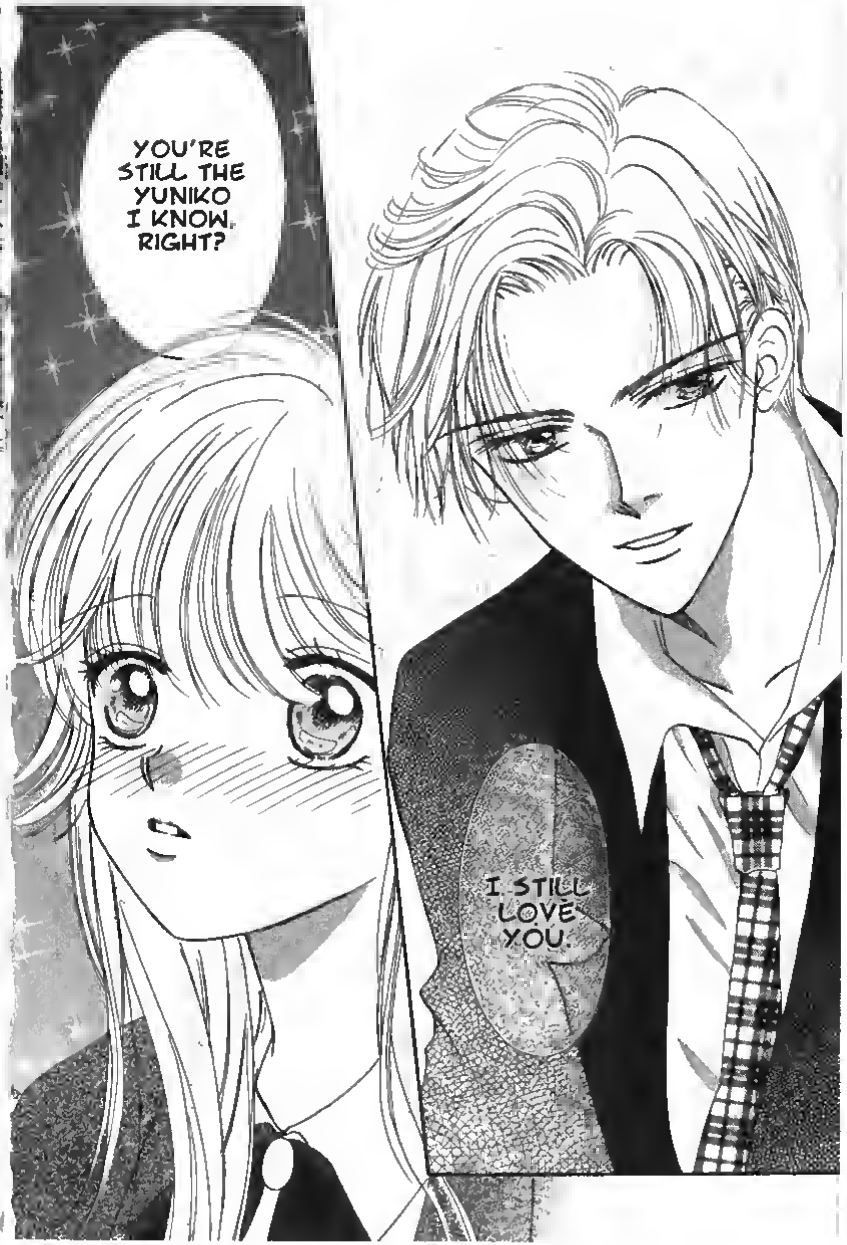

I've been his fan for so long.
I loved Akira Nanae more than anybody else in the world!
NANAE
AKIRA
He's my...father?

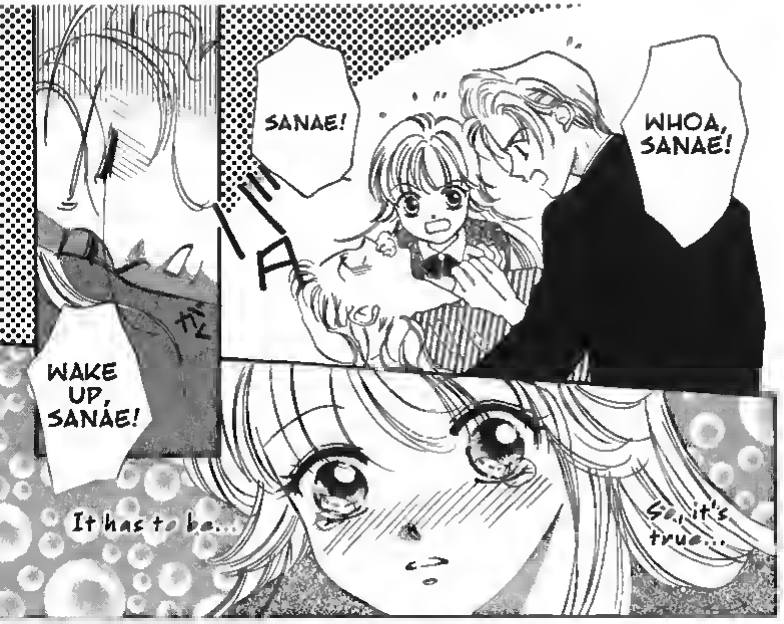
Can this be true...?

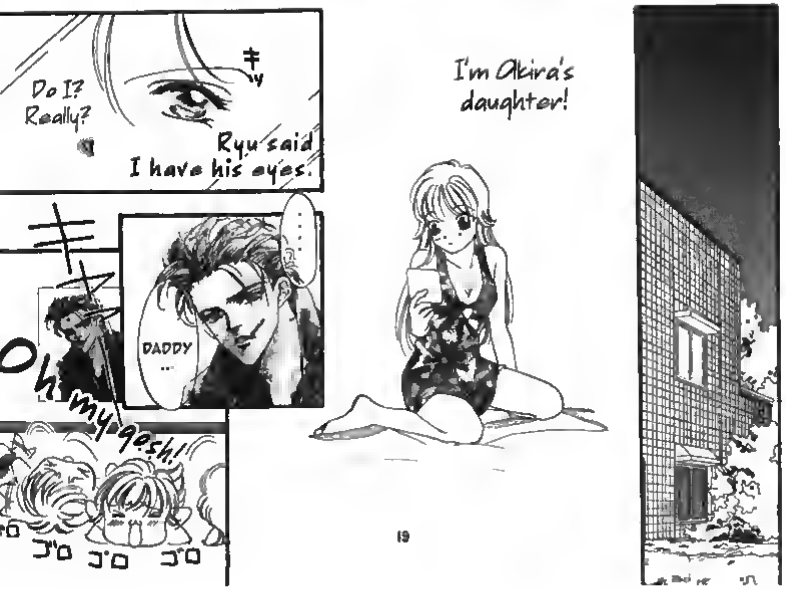
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S MY FATHER.
HIS BIOGRAPHY SAID THAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS PURELY PROFESSIONAL.
THIS MIGHT SEEM MORE BELIEVABLE IF I HEARD THIS FROM MY MOM.
YOU LOOK LIKE AKIRA.
YUNI, YOU NEVER THOUGHT SO?
YOU HAVE YOUR FATHER'S EYES.
It's true. I'm telling you.
RYU...
DO YOU STILL FEEL THE SAME ABOUT ME?

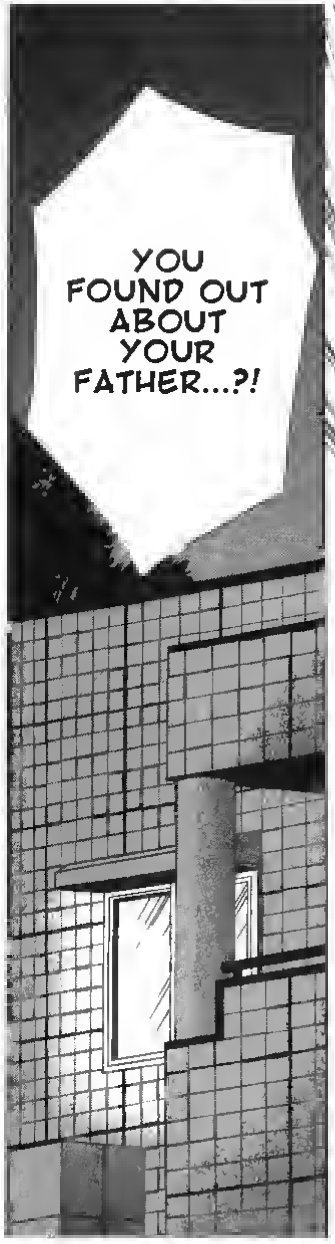
AKIRA NANAE AND MAIKO SAKURA...
...WERE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED AFTER YOU WERE BORN.
SANAE TOLD ME.
SO MY MOM'S AMNESIA WAS CAUSED BY...
YEAH. THE SHOCK FROM AKIRA NANAE'S ACCIDENT.

IT'S REALLY LATE WHAT IS SHE DOING?
YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR FOOD!
YOU WON'T EAT THE FOOD I PREPARE, HUH?
THESE ARE GOURMET CHERRIES!!
I rarely get to eat them myself.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME..?
YUNI!
SHE'S BACK!


YOU'RE STILL THE YUNIKO I KNOW, RIGHT?
I STILL LOVE YOU.


SANAE!
WHOA, SANAE!
WAKE UP, SANAE!
It has to be...
So...it's true...


Do I? Really?
Ryu said I have his eyes.
DADDY...
Oh my gosh!
I'm Akira's daughter!


YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR FATHER...?!

YOU LOOK UPSET! WHAT HAPPENED?
I can't face him!

I STILL LOVE YOU.
Me, too.
I love you, too, Ryu!

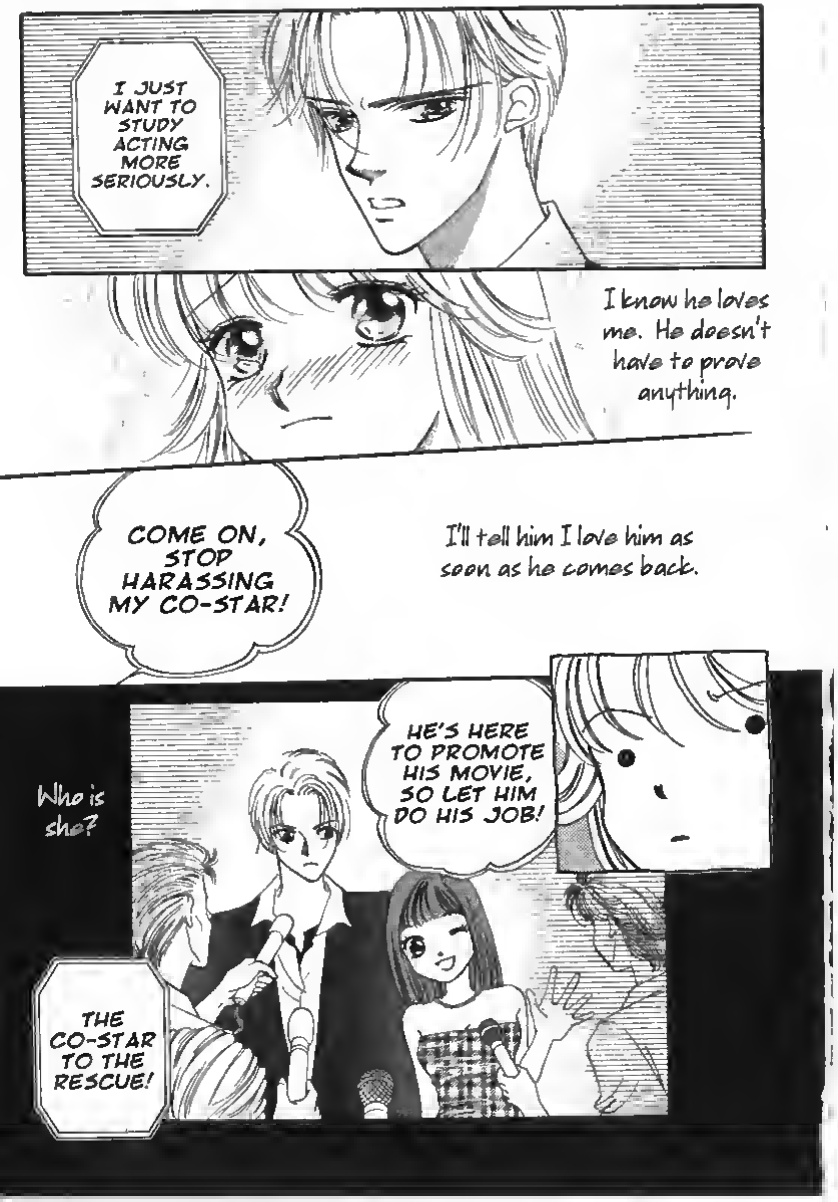
KAMUI, CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT I'M AKIRA'S DAUGHTER?
I'm starting to feel giddy.
I HOPE I'M NOT DREAMING.
Ryu knows that I steal Akira's belongings.
Trying to keep this a secret must have been torturous for him, especially since he hates Akira.
I was shocked when I found out, but Ryu must have been stunned when he heard about this, too!

IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, YOU SAID ALL I WAS AFTER WAS SEX.
YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M SUCH A JERK.
BUT I DIDN'T SAY I LOVE YOU TO GET LAID.
Shouldn't he kiss me now?!
I'M GOING TO BACK OFF TO PROVE THAT I REALLY LOVE YOU.
BACK OFF? FOR WHAT?
...YOU CHOOSE ME OVER AKIRA NANAE, I WON'T FOOL AROUND WITH YOU.
UNTIL...
SAY WHAT?!
MARLINS

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO.
HOW'S SANAE?
HE'S ASLEEP. I CARRIED HIM TO HIS ROOM.
BA-BUMP!
HEY! RYU!
THAT'S GOOD.
I'M DOING ALL RIGHT.
I DIDN'T SAY THAT TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
Wait, isn't he supposed to hug me now?
YEAH?
ABOUT WHAT I SAID AT SCHOOL...

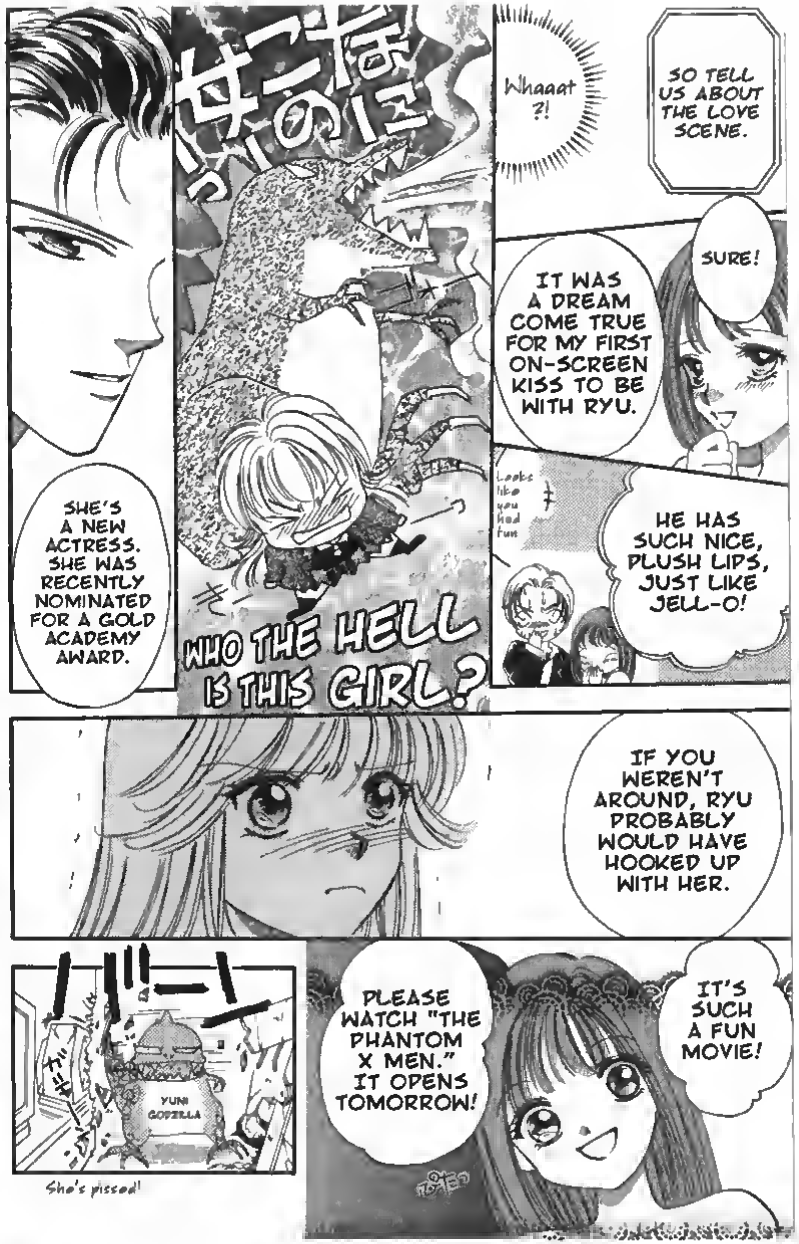
So much happened last night, but...
...I feel great!
You can stay home today if you're still upset.
Are you sure you're okay?
zzzz zzzzz
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL!
Ohmigod! I said it! I said it!
HI, DADDY!
HUH?!
Is Ryu watching me?
I WANTED TO TELL YOU NOW SINCE I'LL BE GONE THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR WORK.
I KNOW IT'LL TAKE TIME, BUT I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
RYU!
I'LL BE PATIENT!
WAIT!
MARLINS
I love you, too...
.....
BUT...
There's no need to wait!

I'M NO GOOD GUY!
It's Ryu's movie poster!
I GET IT!
HE HAD TO LEAVE TO PROMOTE HIS NEW MOVIE!
He's so cute when he's acting.
NICE SHOT!
IT'S MAKI TATSUMI!
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING GOOD. I'M GLAD.
?!
IT WAS PEELING OFF...
I WAS JUST TRYING TO FIX IT.
THIS ISSUE GOES ON SALE TODAY
WHY DO YOU CARE? YOU'RE JUST AFTER THE STORY!


I JUST WANT TO STUDY ACTING MORE SERIOUSLY.
I know he loves me. He doesn't have to prove anything.
I'll tell him I love him as soon as he comes back.
COME ON, STOP HARASSING MY CO-STAR!
Who is she?
HE'S HERE TO PROMOTE HIS MOVIE, SO LET HIM DO HIS JOB!
THE CO-STAR TO THE RESCUE!

AKIRA NANAE USED TO BELONG TO UAT, RIGHT?!
IT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS THIS MORNING.
Ryu Eba suddenly transfers to UAT!
Is he attempting to be the new Nanae?
Mysterious reason behind the move...
ACTU-ALLY, I DO.
ADMIT IT. YOU DON'T MIND BEING CALLED "THE NEW NANAE."
THEN WAS YOUR MOVE AN ATTEMPT TO TOP AKIRA?
TELL US, RYU!
This is all my fault!
What?!

I THINK I'LL MAKE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR DINNER...
...TO CHEER UP YUNI TONIGHT.
TONIGHT, "THE PHANTOM X MEN" WILL BE PREMIERING IN SHIBUYA. IT WILL OPEN NATIONWIDE TOMORROW.
NOW, ON TO OUR NEXT STORY.
THERE WAS A HUGE CROWD AROUND THE THEATER EARLIER.
OH, IT'S RYU!
RYU...
I HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT I LOVE HIM!
I'M TELLING HIM TODAY!


WHO THE HELL IS THIS GIRL?
SHE'S A NEW ACTRESS. SHE WAS RECENTLY NOMINATED FOR A GOLD ACADEMY AWARD.
Whaaat ?!
SO TELL US ABOUT THE LOVE SCENE.
SURE!
IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE FOR MY FIRST ON-SCREEN KISS TO BE WITH RYU.
Looks like you had fun
HE HAS SUCH NICE, PLUSH LIPS, JUST LIKE JELL-O!
IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND, RYU PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HOOKED UP WITH HER.
YUNI GODZILLA
She's pissed!
PLEASE WATCH "THE PHANTOM X MEN." IT OPENS TOMORROW!
IT'S SUCH A FUN MOVIE!

WHY ARE YOU SAYING "NO"?
He's saying "no"
もぞ
?!
もぞ!!
I'M GOING TO TELL RYU HOW I FEEL, SO DON'T BUG ME, OKAY?!
WHAT?!
What?!
KAMUI AND CINNAMON!
WHY DID YOU COME ALONG?
I'm not working tonight!
I know it!!
WOW, LOOK AT THE CROWD!
I know him, too!
I'M NOT A FAN...I KNOW HIM!
EXCUSE ME! NO FANS ALLOWED INSIDE THE HOTEL.

Look!
Look!
FEMALE FANS GATHER AROUND THE HOTEL TO GET A GLIMPSE OF RYU EBA.
HE'LL BE STAYING THERE WHILE PROMOTING HIS NEW FILM.
YUNI?!
I wonder if he'll be surprised
IT'S NOT EASY TO SURPRISE HIM ANYMORE.
I'M MORE NERVOUS NOW THAN WHEN I'M STEALING!
Yuni-ba!
Yeah?
I LOVE YOU, RYU!
I'm all yours tonight baby!

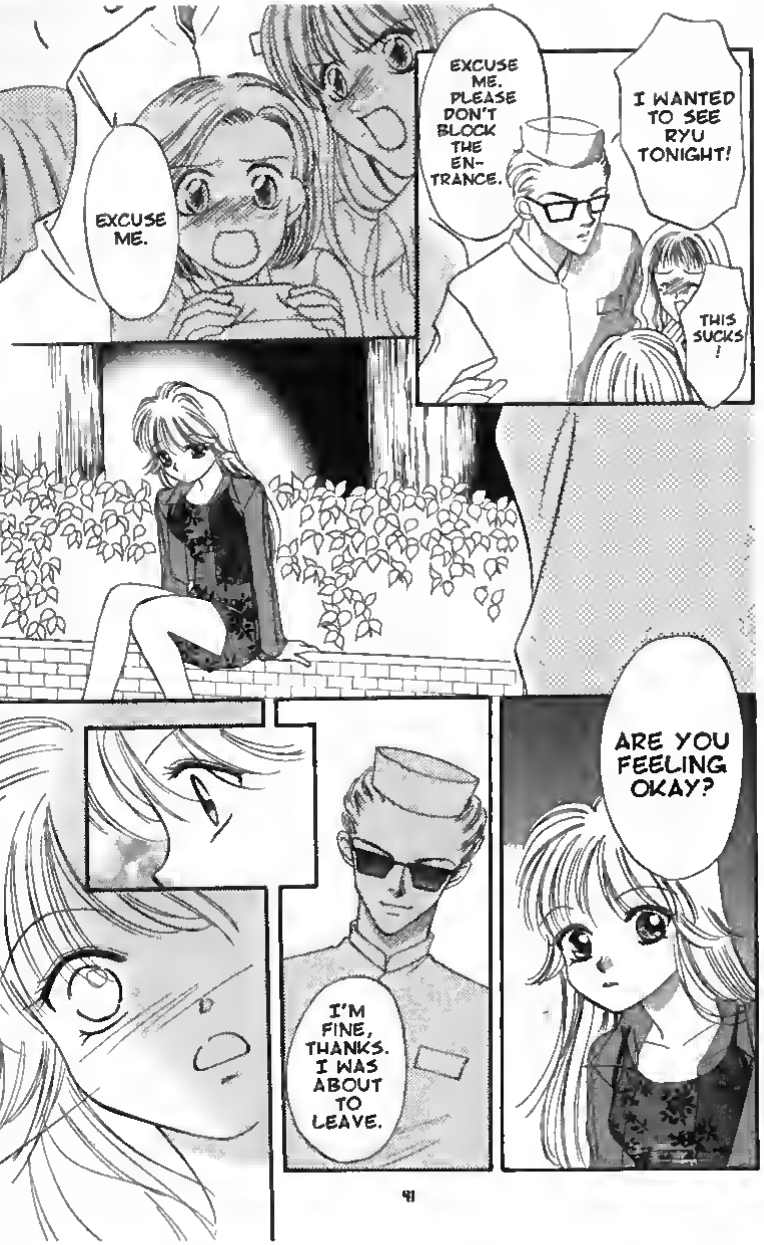
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
OUCH!
UKYUUUU!
I SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR HIS CELL PHONE NUMBER.
IT'S TORN, TOO!
And I'm all scraped up!
DARN IT!
MY DRESS IS DIRTY NOW!

NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE A THIEF.
I'm not giving up yet!
NO. I'M SORRY, MISS.
CAN YOU GIVE HIM A MESSAGE?
It's gonna be hard to find him in this mess.
I should have known!
WHOA!
NANAE♥CU
!!

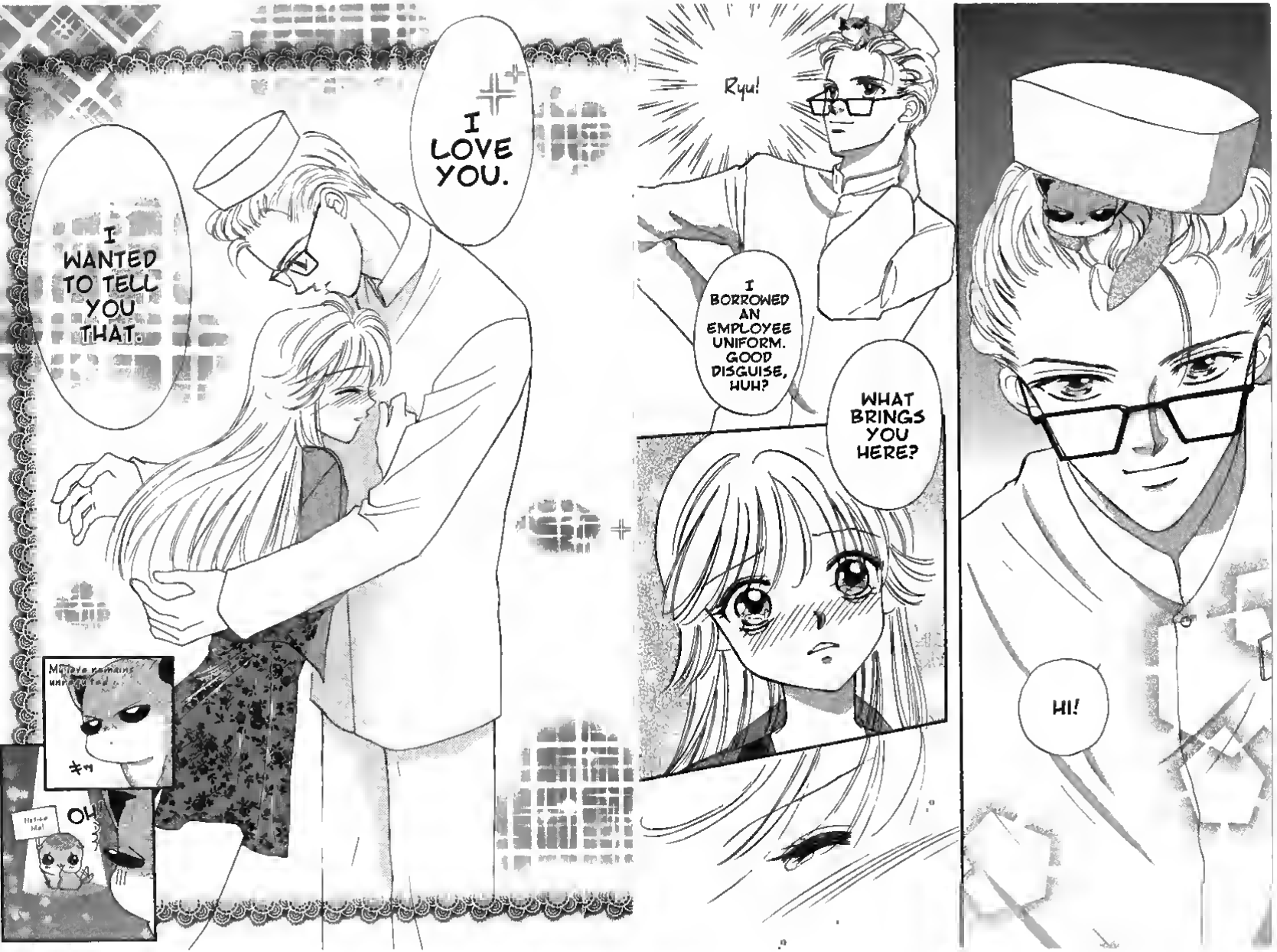
RYU!
キャー
RYU, LOOK OVER HERE!
I LOVE YOU!
キャー
キャー
RYU!
RYU, I LOVE YOU!

AAAAHHH! RYU!
I CAN'T SEE HIM LOOKING LIKE A DISASTER!
キャー
?!
Ryu!

HA!
HUFF!
Sure it's love. How romantic
PERK UP!
LEAD!
THAT WAS A HUGE CROWD!
GREAT JOB!
WOULD ANYBODY LIKE TO EAT DINNER?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU'LL GET TRAMPLED!!
WAIT!
I'LL TELL HIM WHEN HE GETS BACK.
I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT. THIS WAS A PRACTICE ROUND.
DON'T OPEN THE WINDOW!
WHAT IS IT?
I HEARD ...
RYU!
AAAAHHH!
HA!
I LOVE YOU!
I WANTED TO GO SEE HIM WHEN I SAW HIS FACE ON TV.
I CAN BE SUCH AN IDIOT!

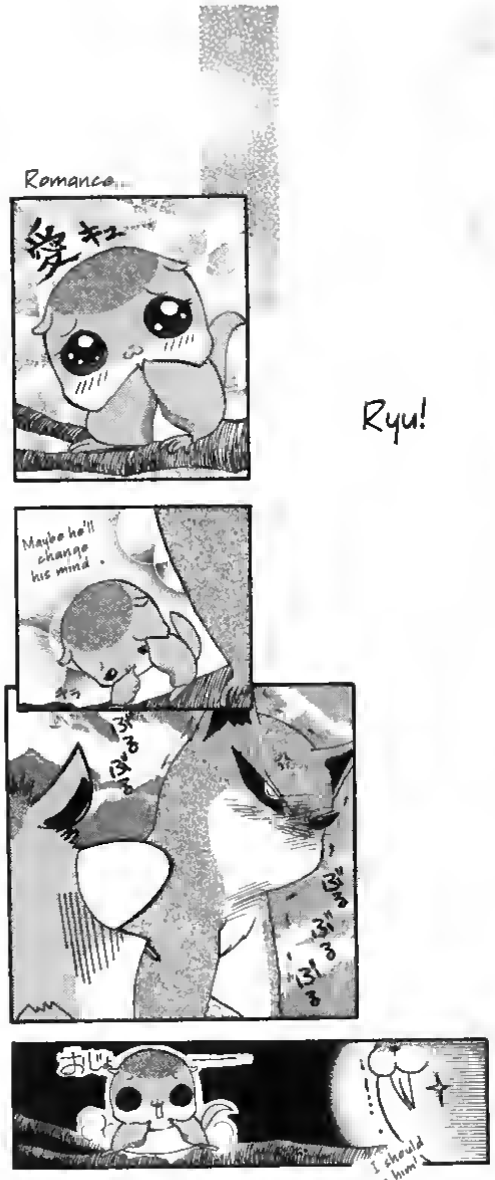

EXCUSE ME.
EXCUSE ME. PLEASE DON'T BLOCK THE EN-TRANCE.
I WANTED TO SEE RYU TONIGHT!
THIS SUCKS!
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
I'M FINE, THANKS. I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE.

WHERE DID KAMUI GO?
HE COULD GET TRAMPLED IN THIS CROWD!
AAAAH!
HUH?!
AAAHHHH!
KYAAAA!
RYU EBA WILL NOT BE MAKING ANYMORE PUBLIC APPEARANCES TONIGHT.
I WAS SURE YUNIKO WOULD SHOW UP SINCE I BUGGED HER THIS MORNING.
MAYBE SHE'S NOT THAT IMPULSIVE.
EXCUSE ME.


I LOVE YOU.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT.
Ryu!
I BORROWED AN EMPLOYEE UNIFORM. GOOD DISGUISE, HUH?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
HI!
Mariya remains unfulfilled...
Notice Me!
OH...

Didn't he hear what I said?!
LET ME TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
I DIDN'T HUG YOU BECAUSE I WAS FEELING SICK.
Come on!
Say something!
BA-BUMP!
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL!!
I said it!
I love you!

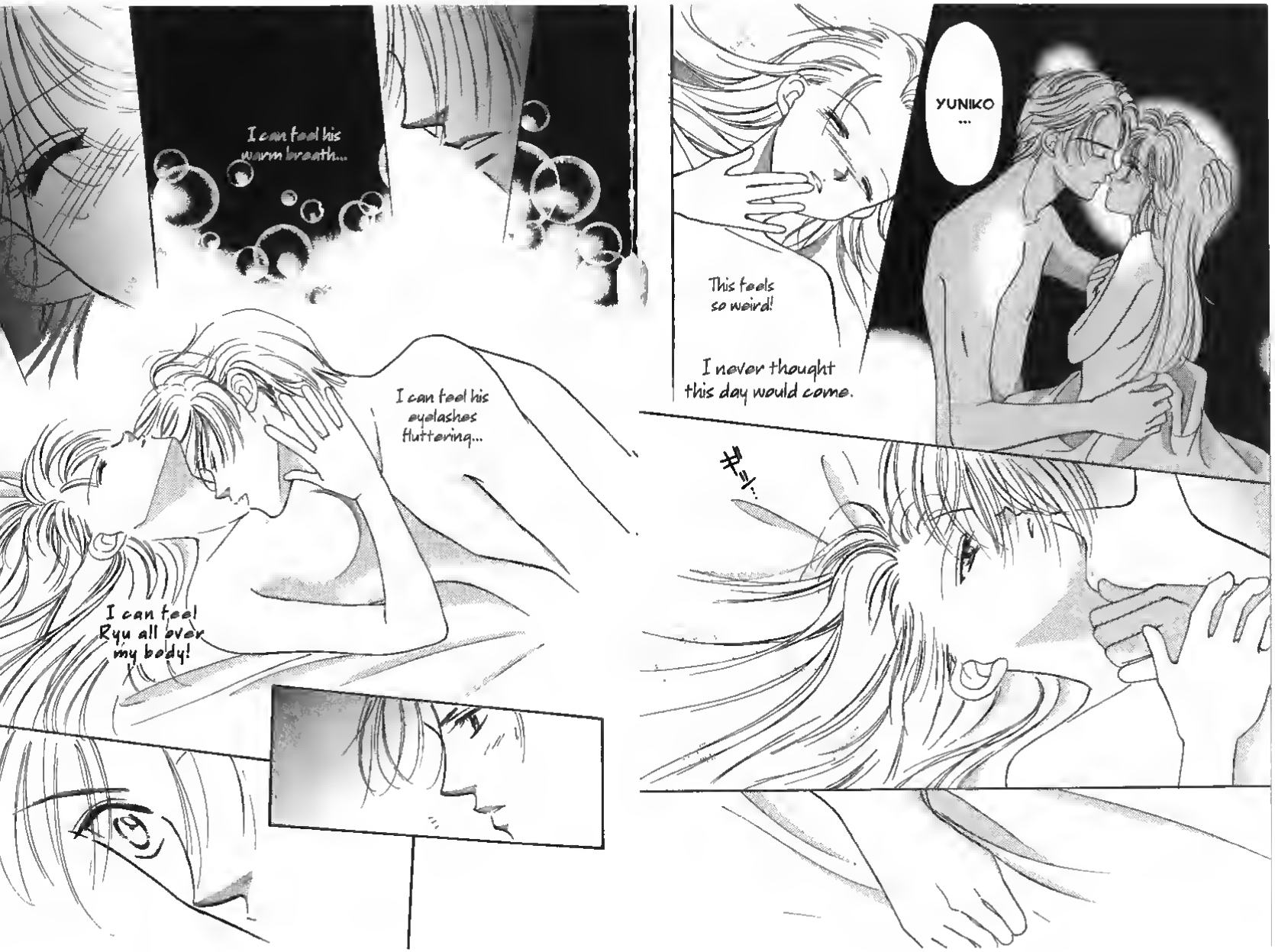
The character names were based on things that could fly through the air. Yunika's name was inspired by the unicorn. Ryu means dragon in Japanese. Sanoe was named after Onaga Sanae, a common name for a species of dragonfly. Tokia Niwa's name comes from Toki, the Japanese word for crane. Cranes are protected by law in Japan. Maki Tatsumi, if you read his last name first, is similar to the word tatsumaki, which means twister. Maki's mother, Yuki Houshou, is named after a bird called Yuki Houshou. Since Komui and Cinnamon can both fly (well, they actually glide), they're exempt. I named Maika Sakura after the image of Sakura (cherry blossom) petals floating in the air. Akira Nonae's name is based on the first letter of the word "Hollywood," written in Japanese kanji. That kanji can also be pronounced "Akira," so I used that as his name. By the way, Komui's name comes from an Ainu (an indigenous Japanese tribe) word, "Akkomui (the Ainu God of Protection)." Komui means "god" in Ainu. And, of course, Cinnamon is named after the famous spice...oh, nevermind!

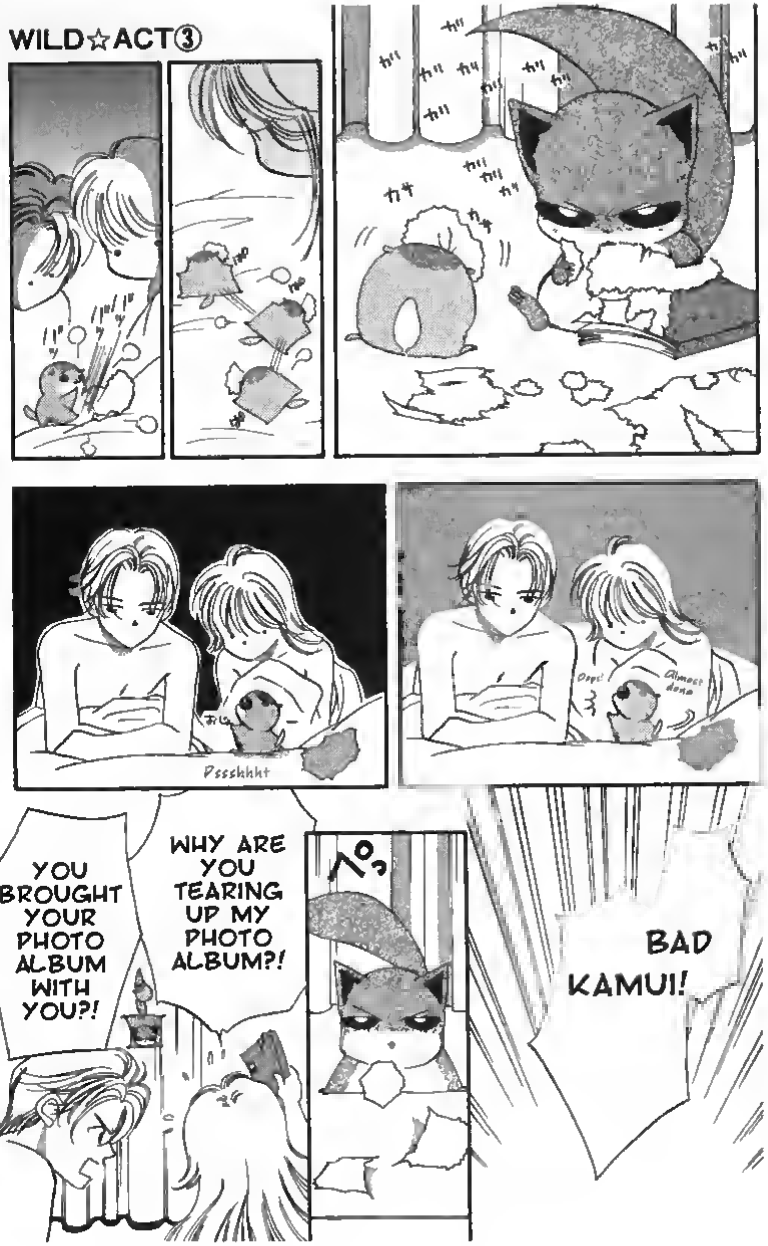


Ryu!

Akira is only an image on the big screen. I need to get over him.
Ryu's going to help me do this...
Good. He's not cracking jokes.
Yeah! I get to do it!
He's serious, just like when he's acting.

I was very surprised but I did bring my overnight kit, just in case!
LET'S DO IT!
C'MON, DO IT WITH ME!
LET ME SEX YOU UP, BABY!
After all, I came here to tell him "I love you."
I was expecting this. Sort of.
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO BED.
WHERE'S RYU?
Nooo!
1205


I can feel his warm breath...
I can feel his eyelashes fluttering...
I can feel Ryu all over my body!
YUNIKO ...
This feels so weird!
I never thought this day would come.


Pssshhht
Oops!
Almost done
BAD KAMUI!
YOU BROUGHT YOUR PHOTO ALBUM WITH YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU TEARING UP MY PHOTO ALBUM?!
No,

WHAT IS IT?
HUH?
WHAT?!
AAAARGH!
OH, NOOO!
WHY ARE AKIRA'S PHOTOS ALL OVER MY BED?
MY PICTURES!

LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE.
ぴよい
KAMUI!
ギク
がば
A PDA. THEY ALL HAVE AKIRA'S PICTURE ON THEM.
A KEY HOLDER.
A HANDKERCHIEF,
AND A MECHANICAL PENCIL...
RYU, I REALLY WAS READY...!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH. GOOD NIGHT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT CRAZY?!
I HAVE AN AKIRA WATCH, TOO!
WOW!

YEAH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T LOVE AKIRA ANYMORE!
I THOUGHT YOU CHOSE ME!
IT'S A HABIT.
OOPS! はっ
LET'S SEE...
IT'S TOO SOON FOR YOU TO BE OVER HIM.

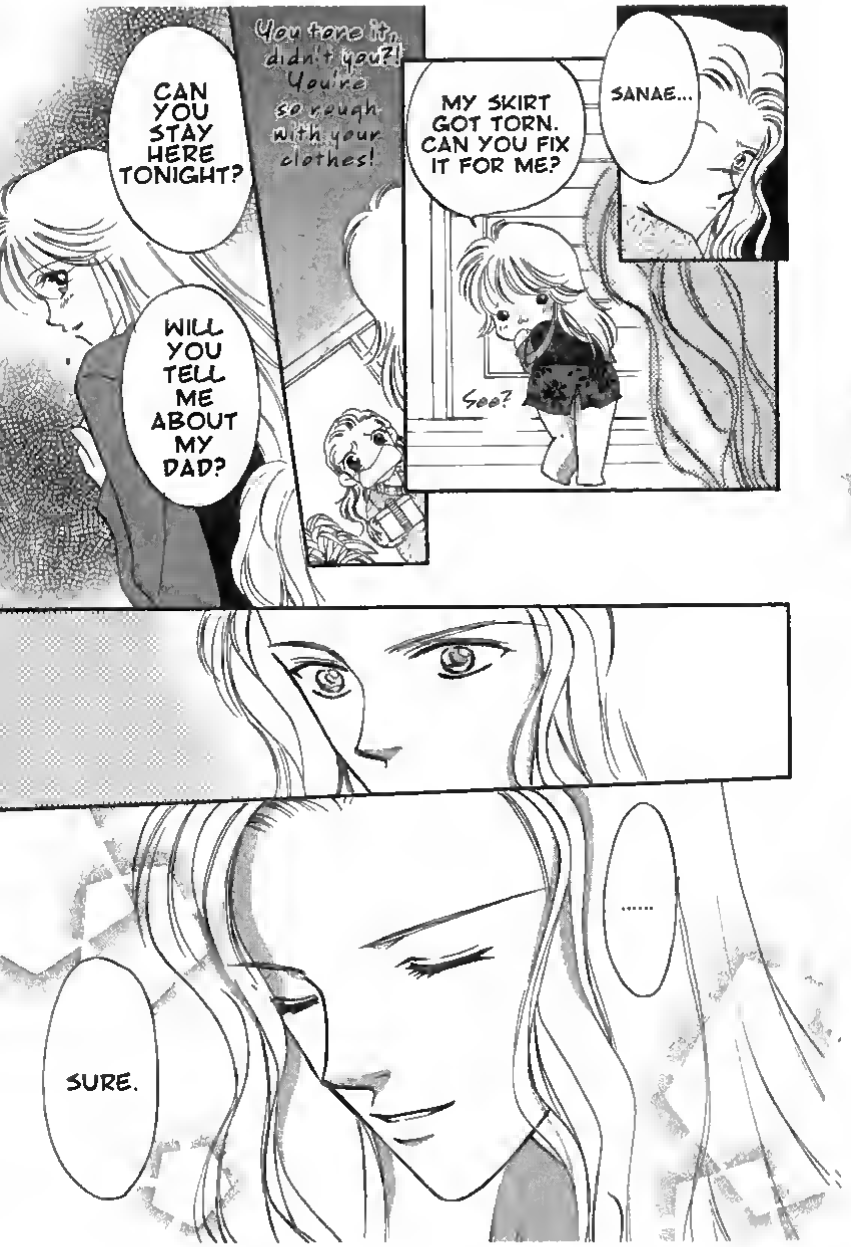
I WAS SCARED ABOUT THE PRESS GETTING AHOLD OF THE INFO THAT YOU'RE AKIRA'S DAUGHTER.
WHY? TABLOIDS DON'T SCARE ME.
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T DIE FROM SHOCK.
IF MAKI SAW US LIKE THIS, WE'D BE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE!
PROOF ...
EITHER WAY, THEY DON'T HAVE A STORY...
...UNLESS THEY CAN FIND PROOF THAT AKIRA NANAE AND MAIKO SAKURA HAD A DAUGHTER.

THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT...
YEAH, RIGHT. YOU WERE SHAKING.
YOU'RE NOT MAD?
IF THIS PISSED ME OFF, I COULDN'T LOVE YOU.

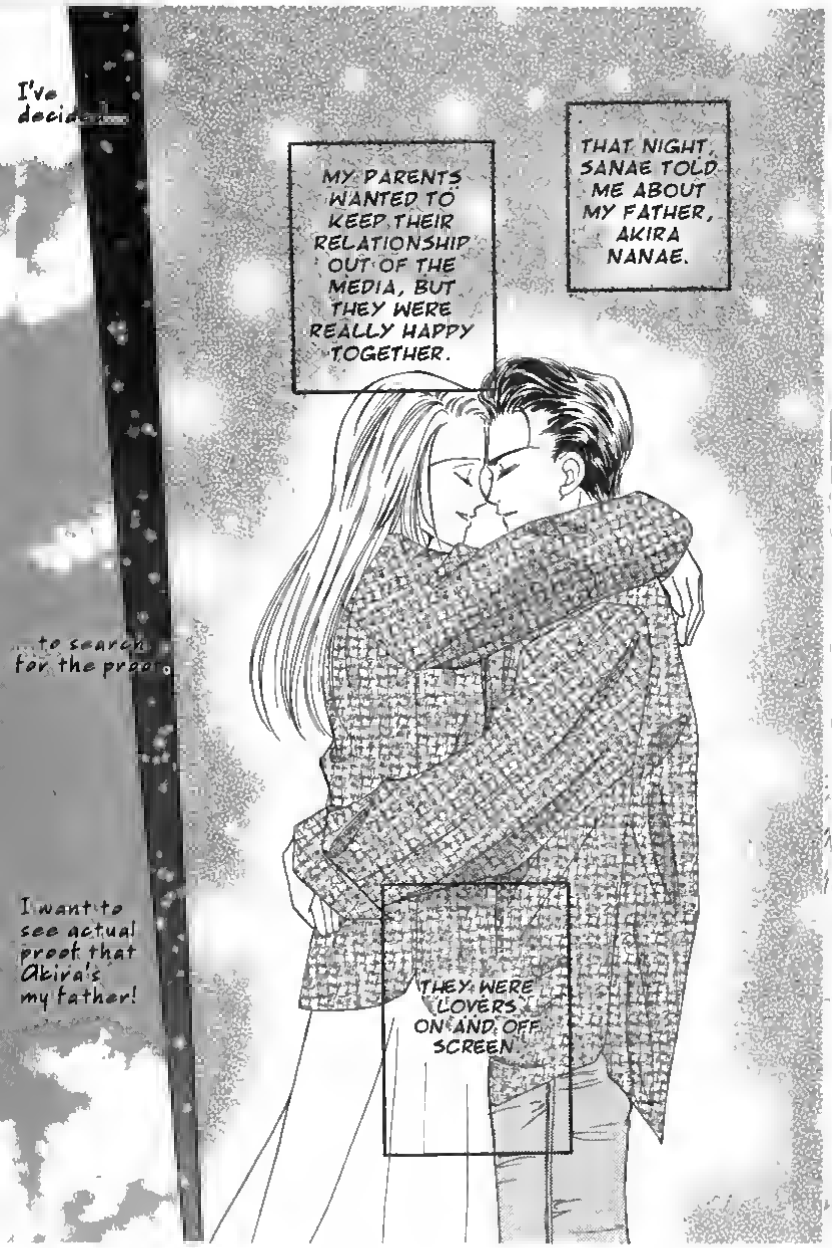
YOU WERE GONE ALL NIGHT! I WAS WORRIED SICK!
Aaarggh!
I'M SORRY.
YOU DELINQUENT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT
DON'T WORRY I'M STILL A VIRGIN!
YOU WERE WITH RYU, RIGHT?!
.....
RYU SAID HE LOVED ME,
SO I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM RIGHT AWAY.
I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, BUT YOU STILL DON'T THINK OF ME AS YOUR FAMILY...
Sob!

I don't like making him worry about me all the time.
OKAY?
I want to find the proof myself.
Why should I let Maki beat me?

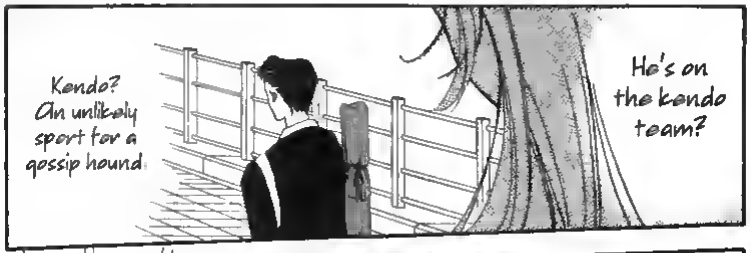
WHAT WOULD COUNT AS PROOF?
NO IDEA.
HOW DID MAKI GET THAT INFORMATION IN THE FIRST PLACE?
DON'T STRESS ABOUT THIS, OKAY?
UAT IS LOOKING INTO THIS, AND THEY WOULD NEVER GIVE MAKI ANY INFOR-MATION.
BUT...


SANAE...
MY SKIRT GOT TORN. CAN YOU FIX IT FOR ME?
See?
You tore it, didn't you?! You're so rough with your clothes!
CAN YOU STAY HERE TONIGHT?
WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT MY DAD?
.....
SURE.

I TOLD HIM THAT I LOVE HIM, TOO. BUT SINCE I STILL LOVE AKIRA, HE'S NOT SATISFIED.
I SWEAR I'M OKAY. ALL RIGHT?
NO, EVERY-THING'S FINE.
WAS IT BAD?
HE WANTS TO WAIT...
...UNTIL I CHOOSE HIM OVER AKIRA.
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!


I've decid
...to search for the proo
I want to see actual proof that Akira's my father!
MY PARENTS WANTED TO KEEP THEIR RELATIONSHIP OUT OF THE MEDIA, BUT THEY WERE REALLY HAPPY TOGETHER.
THAT NIGHT, SANAE TOLD ME ABOUT MY FATHER, AKIRA NANAE.
THEY WERE LOVERS ON AND OFF SCREEN.

HUH?
YUNIKO, YOUR SWEETIE'S BACK FROM WORK...
Zzzzz
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT YUNIKO DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT.
THAT HURT!
WHAT THE--!
SHHH! YUNI'S ALREADY ASLEEP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


Kendo? An unlikely sport for a gossip hound.
He's on the kendo team?

Kendo, huh?
I have an idea!
Kendo's supposed to be a mental sport.
A kendo-playing paparazzi?

A PHOTO-GRAPH?

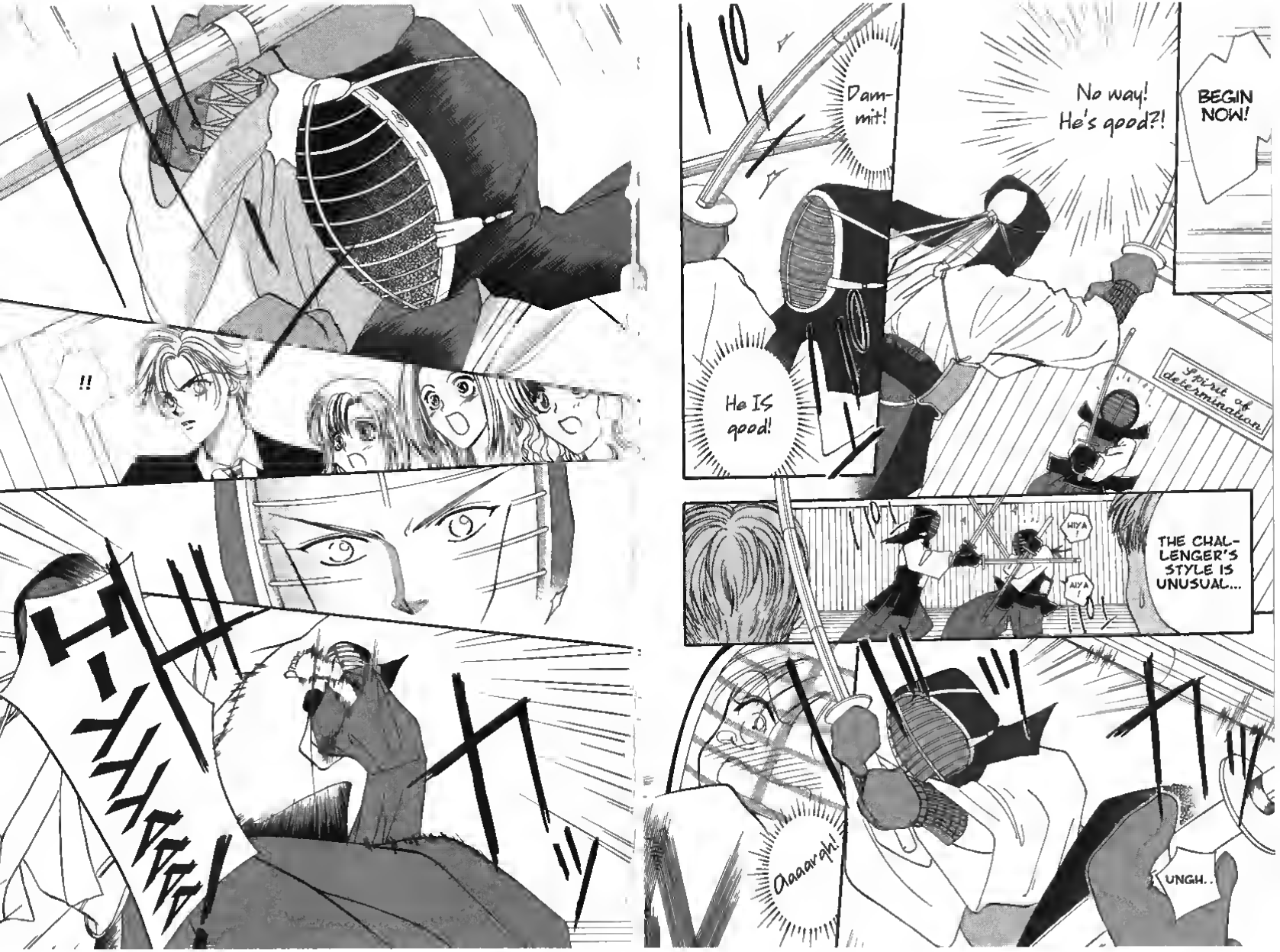
XX IS THE PROOF AND I GOT THE INFO FROM YY!
I'LL PUT A BUG ON MAKI TATSUMI.
MUMBLING
MAYBE I'LL GET SOME INFO WHEN HE'S TALKING TO HIMSELF.
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO SEARCH, BUT...
...WHAT WOULD COUNT AS PROOF?

He's coming!
?!
!!

KENDO TEAM
Spirit of determination
GREAT SHOT, MAKI.
THE CHICKS REALLY LIKE HIM.
FOR A SOPHO-MORE, HE'S REALLY GOOD.
IGNORE!
That was hot! Wow, Maki!
THANKS, RYU!
WAIT, YUNIKO!
?!
SURE, BUT DOES IT HAVE TO BE RIGHT NOW?
Come on!
CAN I TAKE A PICTURE OF US TOGETHER?
...JUST FOR ME!
I WANT A PICTURE OF YOU...
クイッ
PRETTY PLEASE!
I GOT ONE.
カシャ
YOU CAN HAVE THE REAL DEAL INSTEAD OF JUST A PICTURE, BABY!
かばぢゃー

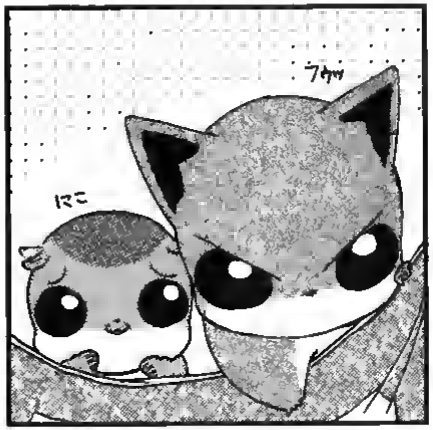
He can't be any good. Slimy paparazzi!
I'll ask him to tell me about the evidence.
I'll make him pay for everything!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IF I WIN, YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
SURE.
THE GIRLS ARE SCREAMING THAT A HOTTIE ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE!
SOMEONE'S CHALLENGING THE KENDO TEAM!
WHAT ?!
HE'S BEEN WINNING COMPETITIONS SINCE JUNIOR HIGH, YOU KNOW.
SURE, WHY NOT?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO FIGHT MAKI?

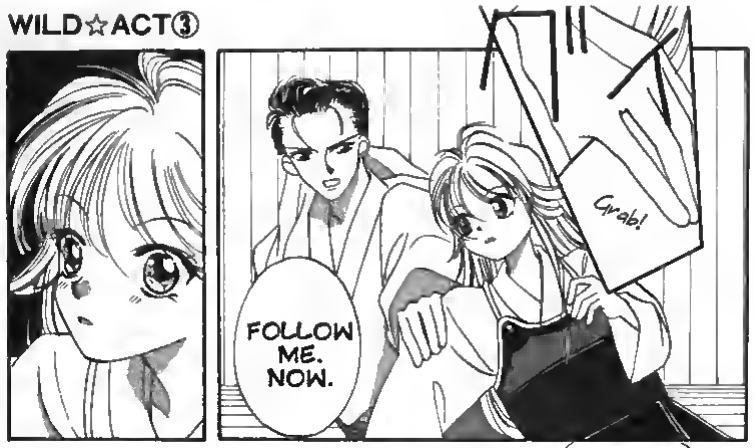
HEH HEH! HEY, MAKI TATSUMI!
HE'S POPULAR ENOUGH.
HE SHOULD SELL HIS OWN PHOTOGRAPH TO THE MEDIA.
ARE YOU GONNA TAKE MY OFFER OR WHAT?
DOES IT REALLY MATTER, MR. PAPA-RAZZI?
?!
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU GET--
YOU'RE TRYING TO GET A SCOOP ON RYU EBA, RIGHT?
IF YOU BEAT ME, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS PHOTO-GRAPH.

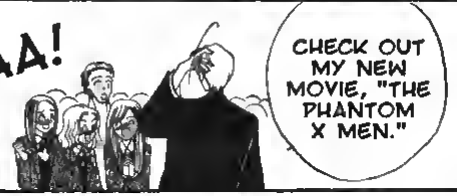

BEGIN NOW!
No way! He's good?!
Dammit!
He IS good!
Spirit of determination
THE CHALLENGER'S STYLE IS UNUSUAL...
HIYA!
HIYA!
UNGH..
Aaaargh!
!!
DOOO

I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE "PROOF" YOU'RE AFTER.
OH NO!
That kick... That's gotta be...
OOPS! I KICKED HIM!
YOU CHEATER!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
YUNIKO SAKU-RABA, RIGHT?

That's so uncool! I can't believe her!
I HATE HER!
SHE KICKED MAKI'S BUTT!
WHO IS SHE?
Wanna join the kendo team?
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE BEAT MAKI!
I KNOW! SHE'S A SOPHOMORE FROM CLASS C!
This is bad!
I'LL KICK HER BUTT!




Grab!
FOLLOW ME. NOW.


KYAAAA!
CHECK OUT MY NEW MOVIE, "THE PHANTOM X MEN."

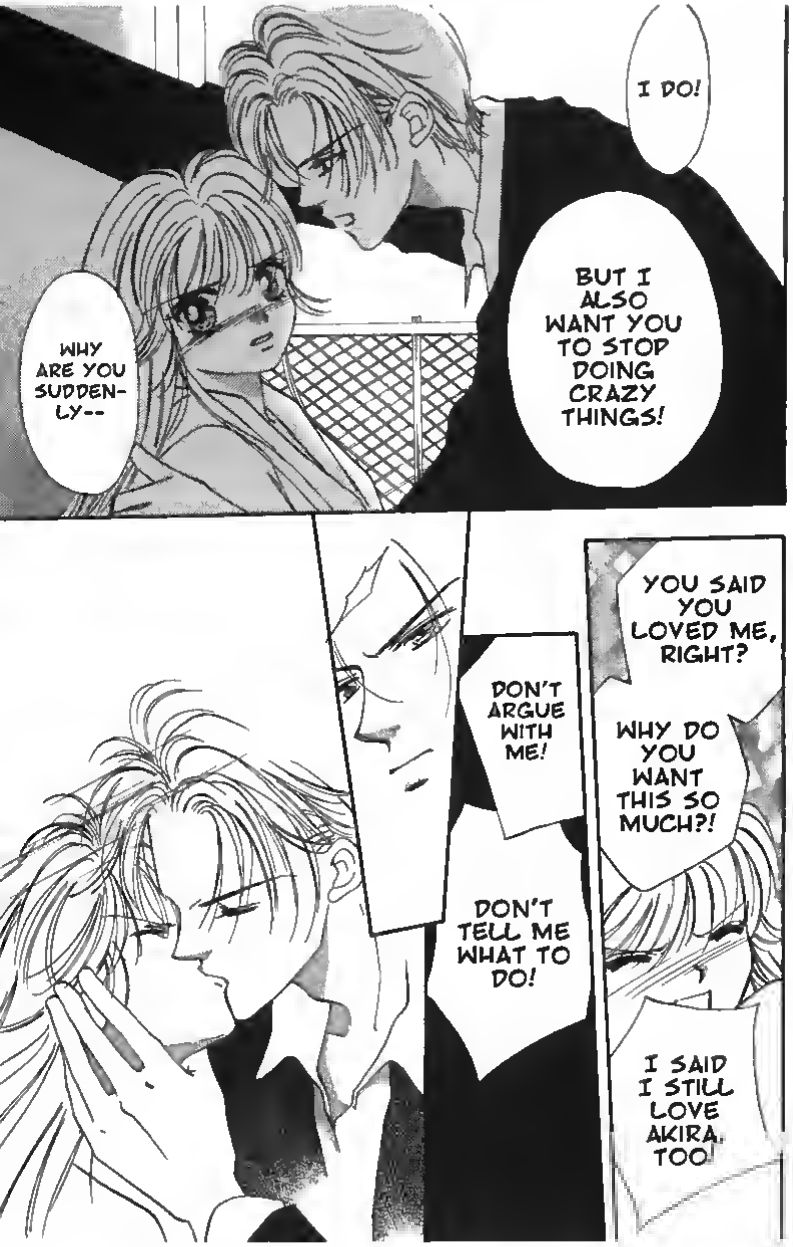
THANK GOD! RYU SAVED ME!

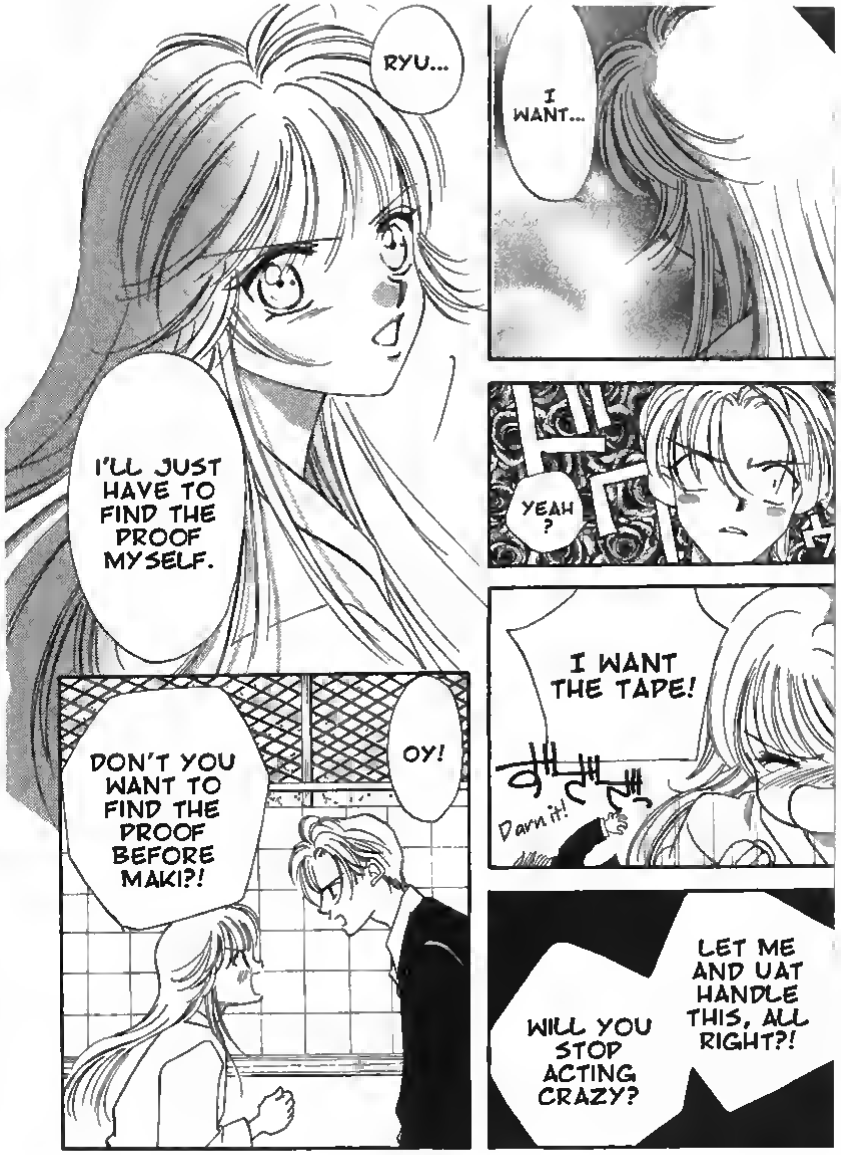
AH-HEM.
OH MY GOD! IT'S RYU EBA!
HUH? RYU?!
It's Ryu!

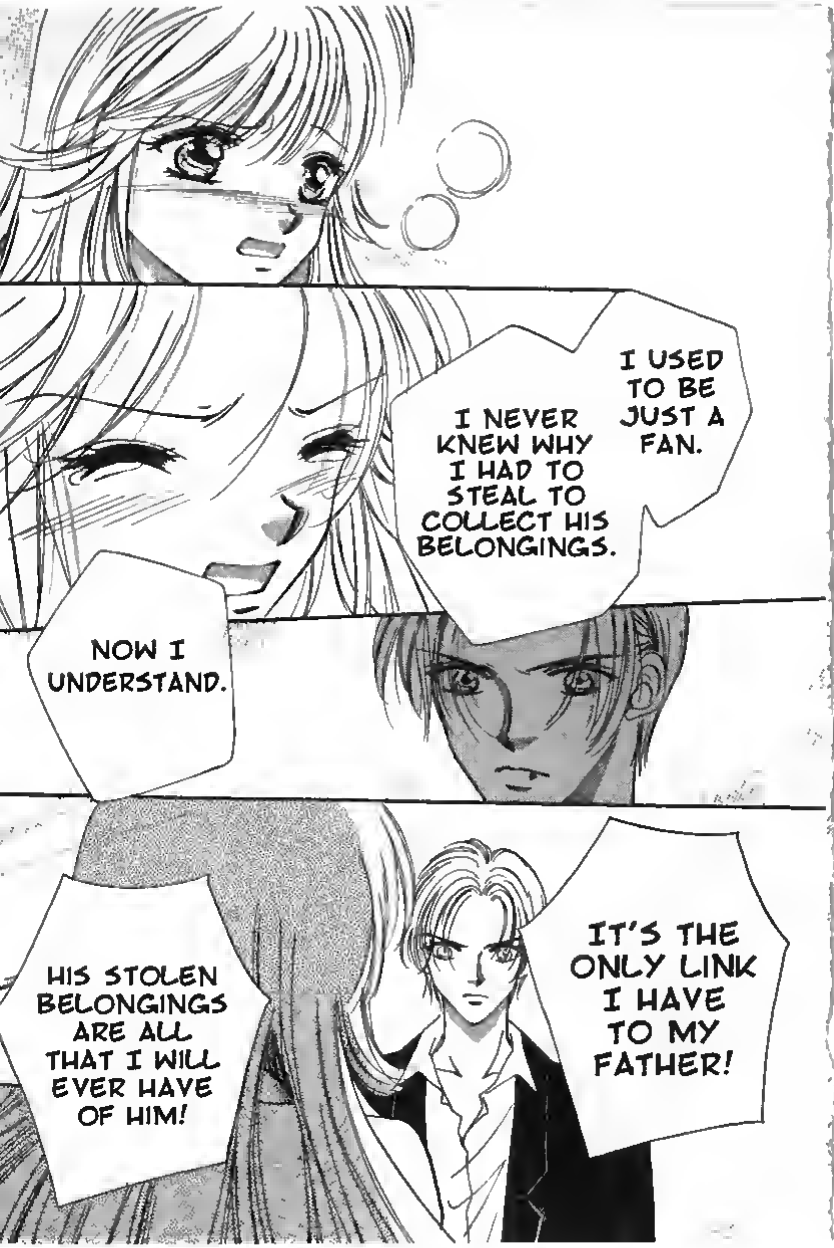
FINE.
I'LL TELL YOU WHY I KNOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE PROOF I'M SEARCHING FOR...
...SINCE YOU SEEM SO DESPERATE TO KNOW.
AKIRA NANAE APPARENTLY CALLED HER AT THE HOSPITAL.
...IN A HOSPITAL IN NISHI IZU TO GIVE BIRTH TO YOU.
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, MAIKO SAKURA HID FROM THE PRESS...

GIVE IT BACK! I DIDN'T EXACTLY LOSE!
HEY, WHEN DID YOU...
YOU PULL SOME CRAZY STUNTS, GIRL.
TRYING TO TEMPT ME WITH A PICTURE LIKE THIS...
TAKE IT. I DON'T WANT IT.
YOU KICKED ME. THERE WAS NO WINNER.
I DIDN'T TAKE THIS PHOTO-GRAPH.

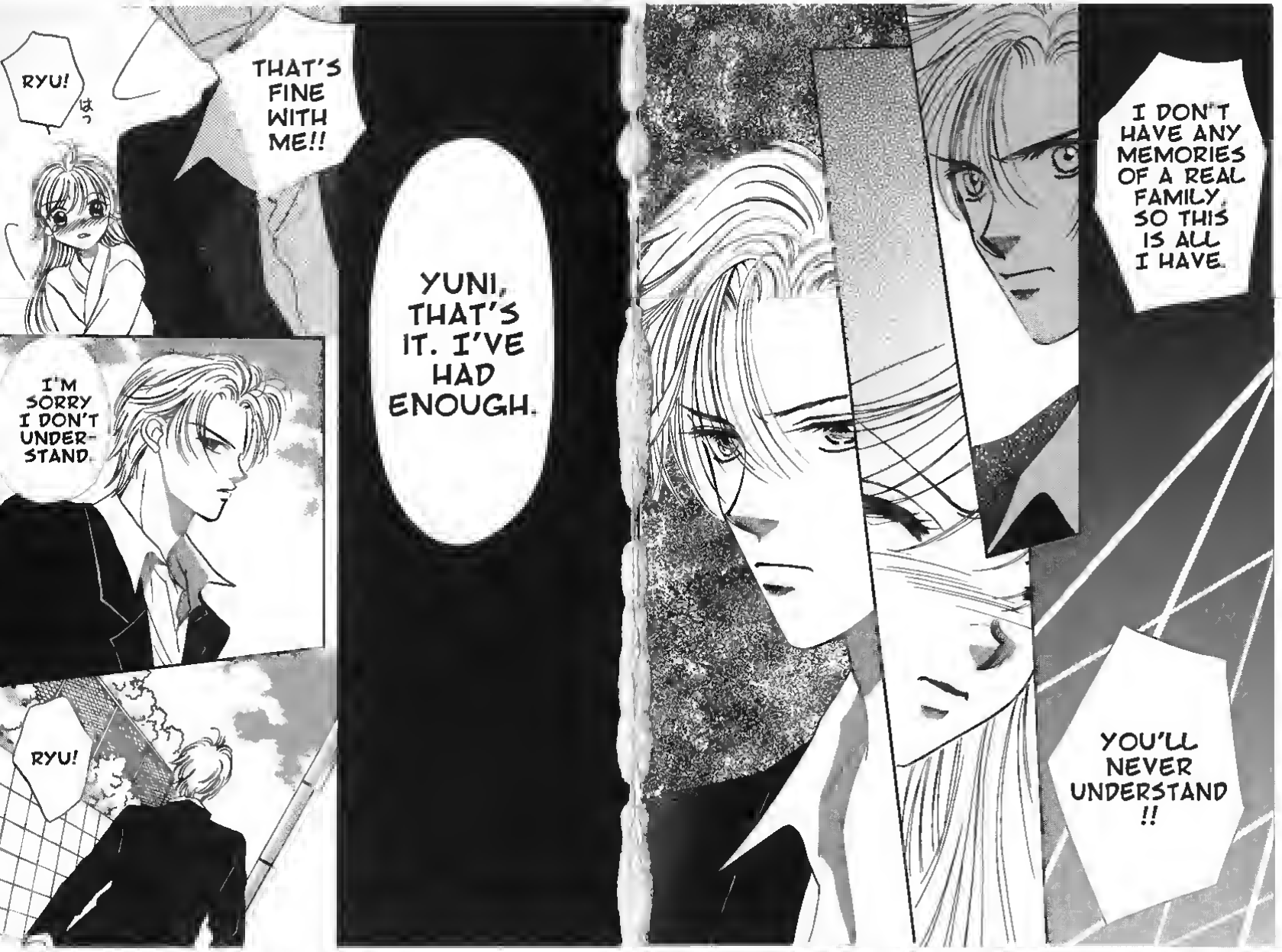
The proof is a tape-recording of a conversation...
...between my parents?!
IF THE TAPE EXISTS, I'LL FIND IT.
WAIT! HOLD IT!!
I'M WARNING YOU NOW.
YUNIKO!
WHY DID YOU--
YUKI TATSUMI. STAGE NAME: YUKI HOUSHOU.
A WIT-NESS?
SHE WAS A FORMER UAT ACTRESS WHO NEVER MADE IT BIG. AND SHE WAS ALSO MY MOTHER.
SHE WAS A BIG FAN OF AKIRA, JUST LIKE YOU.
WAS...?
AKIRA, HOLD ON FOR A SECOND.
GO AHEAD.
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE CONVER-SATION,
BUT THERE WAS A WITNESS.


I DO!
BUT I ALSO WANT YOU TO STOP DOING CRAZY THINGS!
WHY ARE YOU SUDDEN-LY--
YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME, RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU WANT THIS SO MUCH?!
I SAID I STILL LOVE AKIRA, TOO!
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME!
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!


RYU...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND THE PROOF MYSELF.
DON'T YOU WANT TO FIND THE PROOF BEFORE MAKI?!
OY!
I WANT...
YEAH?
I WANT THE TAPE!
Damn it!
WILL YOU STOP ACTING CRAZY?
LET ME AND UAT HANDLE THIS, ALL RIGHT?!


I USED TO BE JUST A FAN.
I NEVER KNEW WHY I HAD TO STEAL TO COLLECT HIS BELONGINGS.
NOW I UNDERSTAND.
IT'S THE ONLY LINK I HAVE TO MY FATHER!
HIS STOLEN BELONGINGS ARE ALL THAT I WILL EVER HAVE OF HIM!

IF I CAN, I WANT TO OWN EVERYTHING THAT USED TO BELONG TO MY DAD!
STOP!
YUNIKO!
LEAVE ME ALONE !!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!

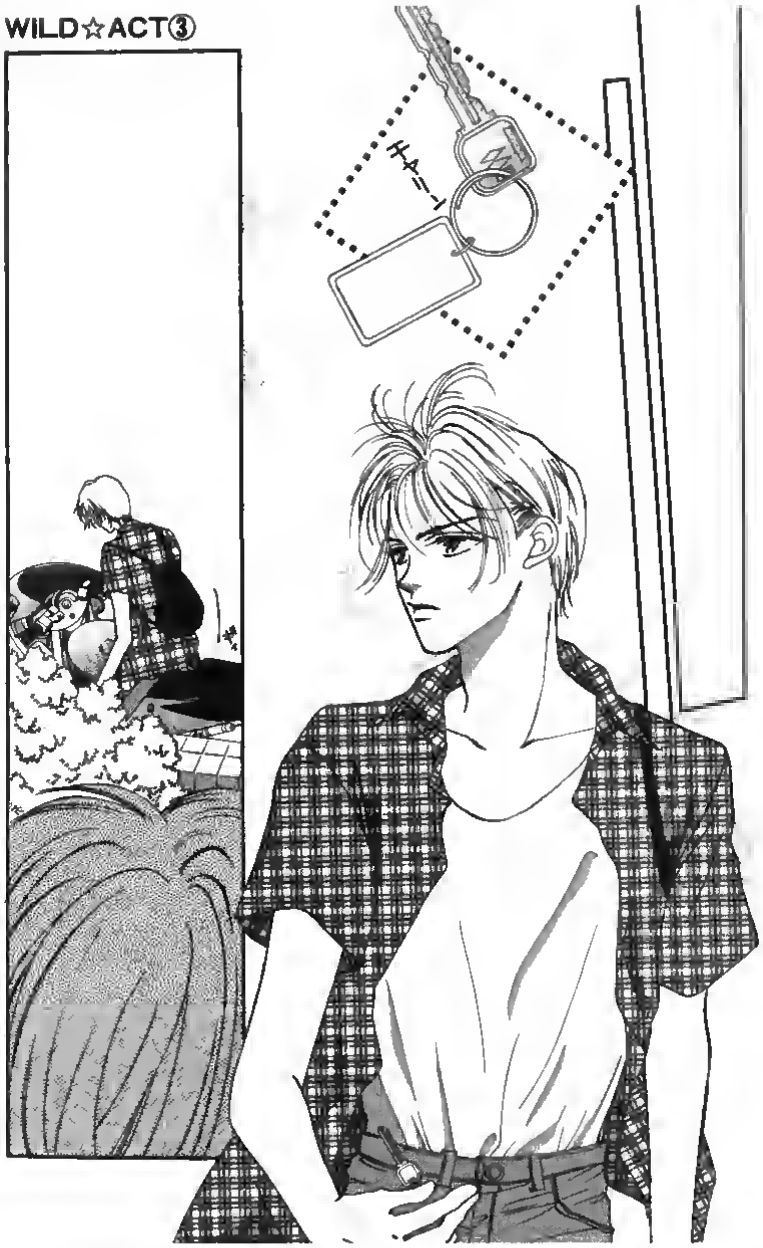

RYU!
はっ
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!!
I'M SORRY I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
RYU!
YUNI, THAT'S IT. I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF A REAL FAMILY. SO THIS IS ALL I HAVE.
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND !!

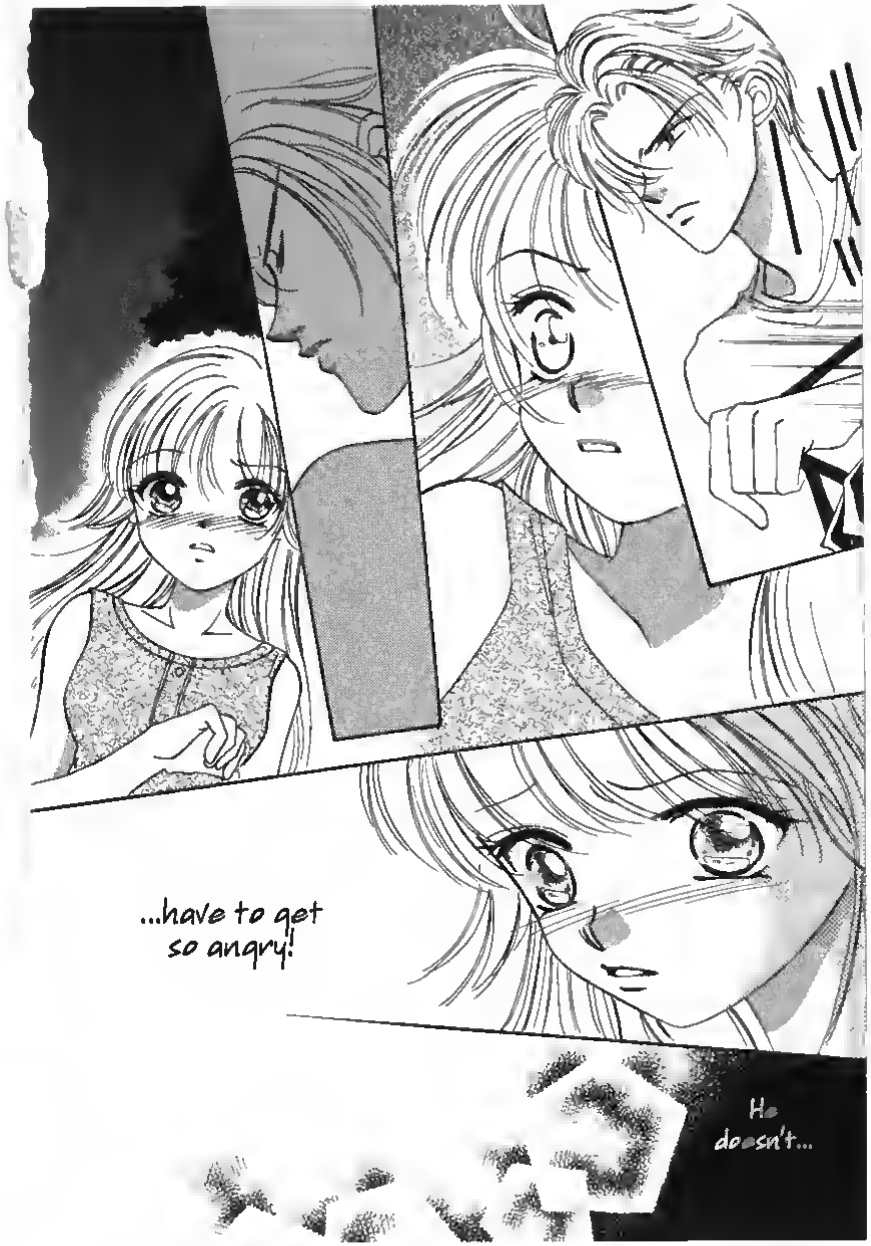
IF IT WAS HERE, MAKI WOULDN'T BE SEARCHING FOR IT.
OF COURSE.
OH...
HI! RYU?
I OWE YOU AN...

YOUR MOTHER'S STUFF?
What should I do?
I wasn't trying to make him mad!
YEAH, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A TAPE OF THEIR CONVERSATION.
IT'S STILL STORED HERE, RIGHT?
I wanted to tell him why Akira's belongings are so important to me...
I think I really pissed him off!!
YOU'VE LOOKED THROUGH THIS ROOM SEVERAL TIMES, RIGHT?
IT'S ALL IN HERE.

...
WHERE DID HE GO?
HE'S BACK!
ABOUT YESTER-DAY AFTER-NOON...
RYU!
RYU!
HEY, WAIT!

YUNIKO, YOU'RE AN IDIOT! I'M GOING TO GET LAID IN THE CITY TONIGHT!
HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO A PARTY IN THE CITY.
WHERE'S HE GOING?
HOLD IT...
?
He took it the wrong way.
The words just came out wrong..




...have to get so angry!
He doesn't...

CINNAMON
KAMUI! YOU'RE SUCH A MAMA'S BOY!
You're going to sneak out while she's asleep?
Oh, Kamui...
SURE. I CAN DO THAT.
IT'S MY BROTHER HE'S PARTYING IN THE CITY AND GETTING INTO TROUBLE.
CAN YOU FOLLOW THAT MOTOR-CYCLE?
I have to tell him how I'm feeling!

Yawn!
YOU CAN STAY HOME TONIGHT, KAMUI.
I PROBABLY WON'T FIND ANYTHING.
...I'LL HAVE TO WIN HIM BACK!
IF RYU'S WITH ANOTHER GIRL...
He's mine!
No!
SMASHING HIS FACE
HE'S GOING OUT TONIGHT AGAIN!
I didn't know that his silence would hurt so much.
I'M SO STRESSED OUT ABOUT THIS. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON MY SEARCH!

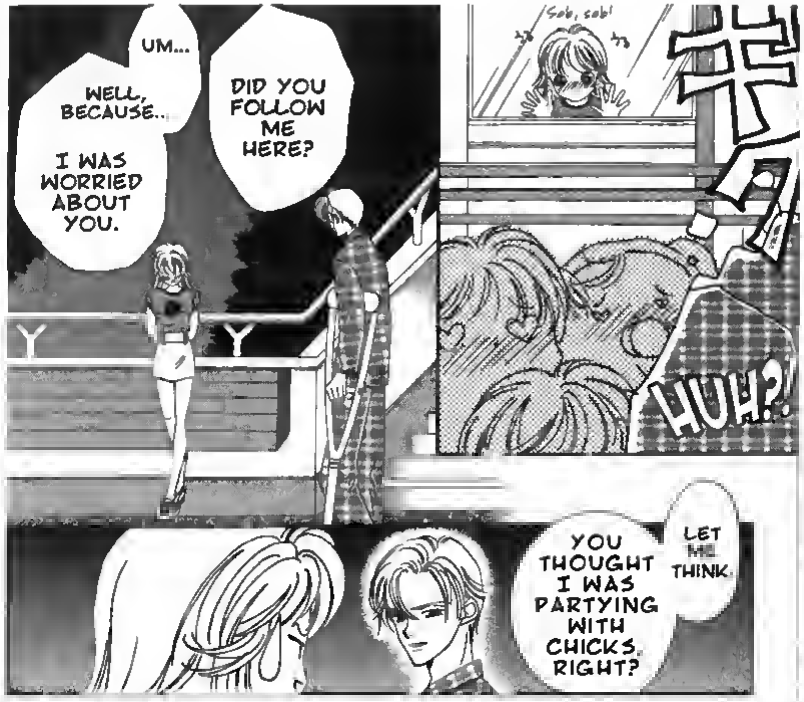
...my mom's hospital!
Wait!
Hold it!
This is the way to...
Nursery

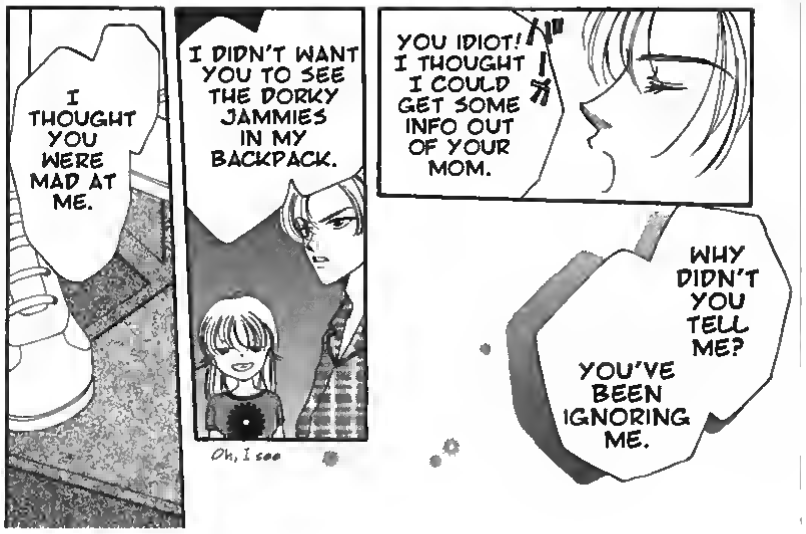
CITY
ゴァァァ
YOU SAY HE'S PARTYING IN THE CITY,
BUT WE'RE GOING AWAY FROM THE CITY RIGHT NOW.
Really ?!
YUNIKO, YOU'RE A MORON! I'M GOING TO GET LAID IN THE MOUNTAINS...
Huff!
No! That's impossible!
Where's he going?
HE'S GOING INTO THE MOUNTAINS.

YOU'LL NEVER GET BETTER AT THIS RATE!
RYU, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN YOUR ROOM!
COME ON...DON'T GIVE THE BIG GUY A HEADACHE, GIRLS!
Mom!
I'D RATHER BE PLAYING WITH THE KIDS.
THE GEEZER IN THE NEXT BED KEEPS LECTURING ME.
RIGHT ?

HERE YOU GO, DARLING!
Ryu!
Ahhhh!
YOU NEED TO EAT HEALTHY AND GET BETTER!
Here's a special hamburger for you
. with pre-school girls?
I don't get it. He's partying at night...
IT'S OUR CHANCE! LET'S ELOPE!
GO AWAY. RYU'S MY HONEY!
DON'T EAT HER FOOD!
EAT MINE INSTEAD!

YOU JUST WON'T LISTEN TO ME.
I WAS MAD.
Ryu...
YOU'VE GOT THAT SAME LOOK IN YOUR EYES YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE AFTER AKIRA'S MEMO-RABILIA.
BUT THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU.

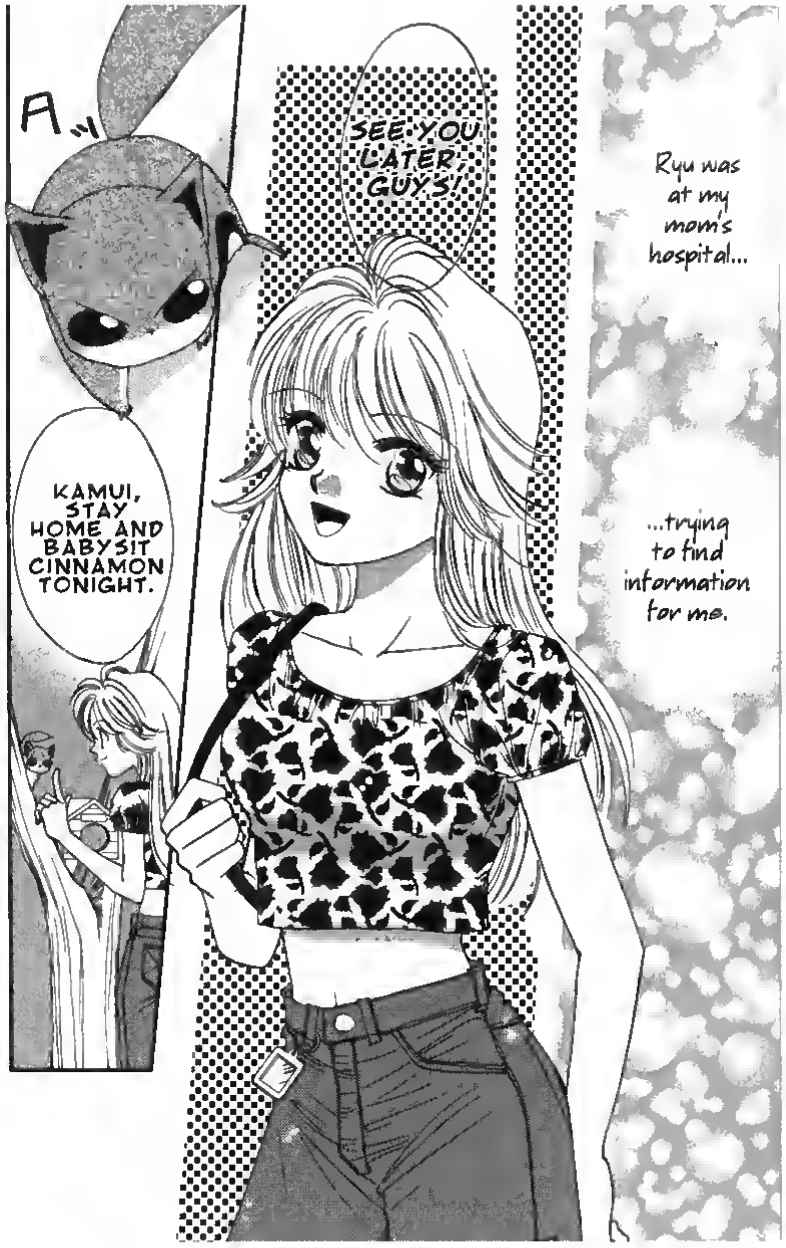

UM...
WELL, BECAUSE...
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
DID YOU FOLLOW ME HERE?
Sob, sob!
HUH?!
LET ME THINK.
YOU THOUGHT I WAS PARTYING WITH CHICKS, RIGHT?


I THOUGHT YOU WERE MAD AT ME.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE THE DORKY JAMMIES IN MY BACKPACK.
Oh, I see
YOU IDIOT! I THOUGHT I COULD GET SOME INFO OUT OF YOUR MOM.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING ME.

AND UNTIL I SURPASS HIM AS AN ACTOR...
Ryu!
I love you just as much as I love Akira!

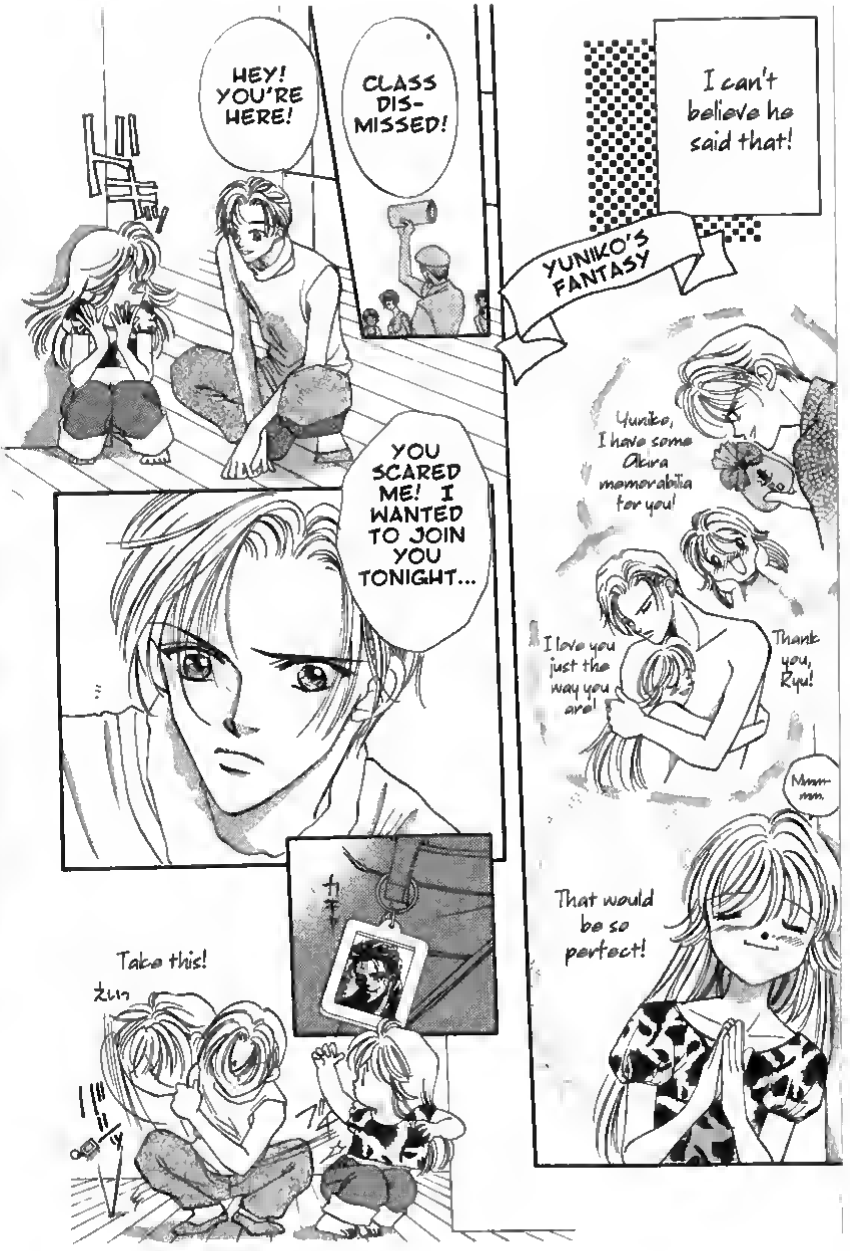
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT AKIRA'S...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LOVE YOU.
I JUST CAN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU OR AKIRA.
HE'S YOUR FATHER, AFTER ALL.
I'LL HELP YOU UNTIL YOU FIND THE PROOF YOU NEED.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.

I can't let Ryu do all the work.
I can't believe you left me all alone!
SOB
SOB
SOB
CINNAMON WAS LEFT HOME ALONE LAST NIGHT.
My fur is too bright and I can't fly...
おじゃ
SNIFF!
We're going to the hospital together to search for information.

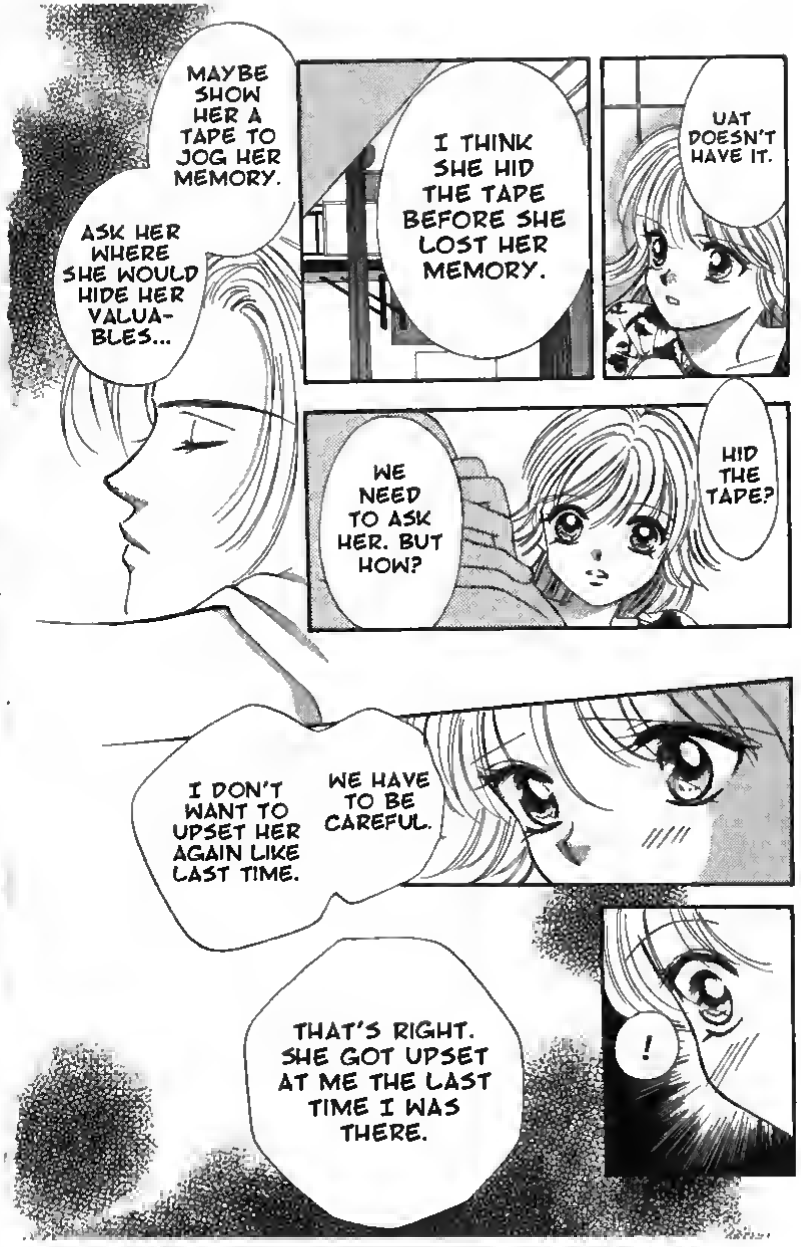

SEE YOU LATER, GUYS!
KAMUI, STAY HOME AND BABYSIT CINNAMON TONIGHT.
Ryu was at my mom's hospital...
...trying to find information for me.

HIS ACTING CLASS STARTED REHEARSING TODAY.
Ryu...
He's busy with work and class rehearsals...
"I'LL HELP YOU UNTIL YOU FIND THE PROOF YOU NEED."
"AND UNTIL I SURPASS HIM AS AN ACTOR..."
It's afternoon, but..
GOOD MORNING!
OH! HI, YUNI!
UNI
ペロッ!

SANAE, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THEM?
He still hates Akira.
DO YOU HAVE TO WEAR THAT WHEN YOU COME SEE ME?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RIP IT OFF!
WHO KNOWS?
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
SORRY. IT WAS A REFLEX.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT SHE HAS IT.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO ASK HER ABOUT THE TAPE?
ABOUT THE EVIDENCE...
I DOUBT SHE REMEMBERS THAT AKIRA EVER EXISTED!
SHE SHUT HERSELF OFF FROM THE WORLD.


HEY! YOU'RE HERE!
CLASS DISMISSED!
I can't believe he said that!
YUNIKO'S FANTASY
YOU SCARED ME! I WANTED TO JOIN YOU TONIGHT...
Yuniko, I have some Akira memorabilia for you!
I love you just the way you are!
Thank you, Ryu!
Nmmmm.
That would be so perfect!
Take this!
zun

ACT NORMAL? HOW?
WHAT? JUST ACT NORMAL.
I CAN'T GO INTO THE NURSERY.
!!
WE'LL BE THE HOT-AND-HEAVY COUPLE!!
I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU AS MY GIRL-FRIEND!
I'M IN THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.
GIRL-FRIEND ?
LEAVE IT UP TO ME!
MAYBE I'LL GET SOME AT THE HOSPITAL! HEH HEH!


MAYBE SHOW HER A TAPE TO JOG HER MEMORY.
ASK HER WHERE SHE WOULD HIDE HER VALUA-BLES...
I THINK SHE HID THE TAPE BEFORE SHE LOST HER MEMORY.
UAT DOESN'T HAVE IT.
WE NEED TO ASK HER. BUT HOW?
HID THE TAPE?
I DON'T WANT TO UPSET HER AGAIN LIKE LAST TIME.
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE GOT UPSET AT ME THE LAST TIME I WAS THERE.
!

It's my mom!
She changed her hairstyle!
YOU'RE SO POPULAR, AS USUAL!
OH!
YOU'RE...
SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE HER MOTHER. RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU HIDING?
YOU WANTED TO APOLO-GIZE, RIGHT?

RYU!
OH, WOW!
Nurs
Hot-and-heavy couple...
Will this work?
HELLO!
WERE YOU A GOOD GIRL?
I was! fr—
Me too, Ryu!
THE GIRLS WERE GETTING ANXIOUS WAITING FOR YOU.
RYU...

TELL HER YOU'RE SORRY!
YOU THOUGHT MAIKO WAS SO PRETTY THAT YOU WISHED SHE WAS YOUR MOM.
RIGHT?
UH... YEAH.
HER MOM DISAPPEARED WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, AND SHE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR HER EVER SINCE.
YOU HAVE THE SAME FIRST AND LAST NAME, SO SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE HER MOTHER.
I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT I FOUND HER, AND...
OH, I'M SO SORRY!
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING UPSET.
YOU CAN VISIT ME ANY TIME YOU WANT.
I CAN BE YOUR OTHER MOM, ALL RIGHT?
MAIKO...
THANK YOU!
She's so warm!
I got a hug from Mom for the first time!

YOU KNOW, THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ACT LIKE FAMILY FROM NOW ON.
COME ON! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACTING LIKE MY SISTER?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
YOU LOOK AWFULLY HAPPY.
I WAS ABLE TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH MY MOM...
...THANKS TO YOU, RYU.

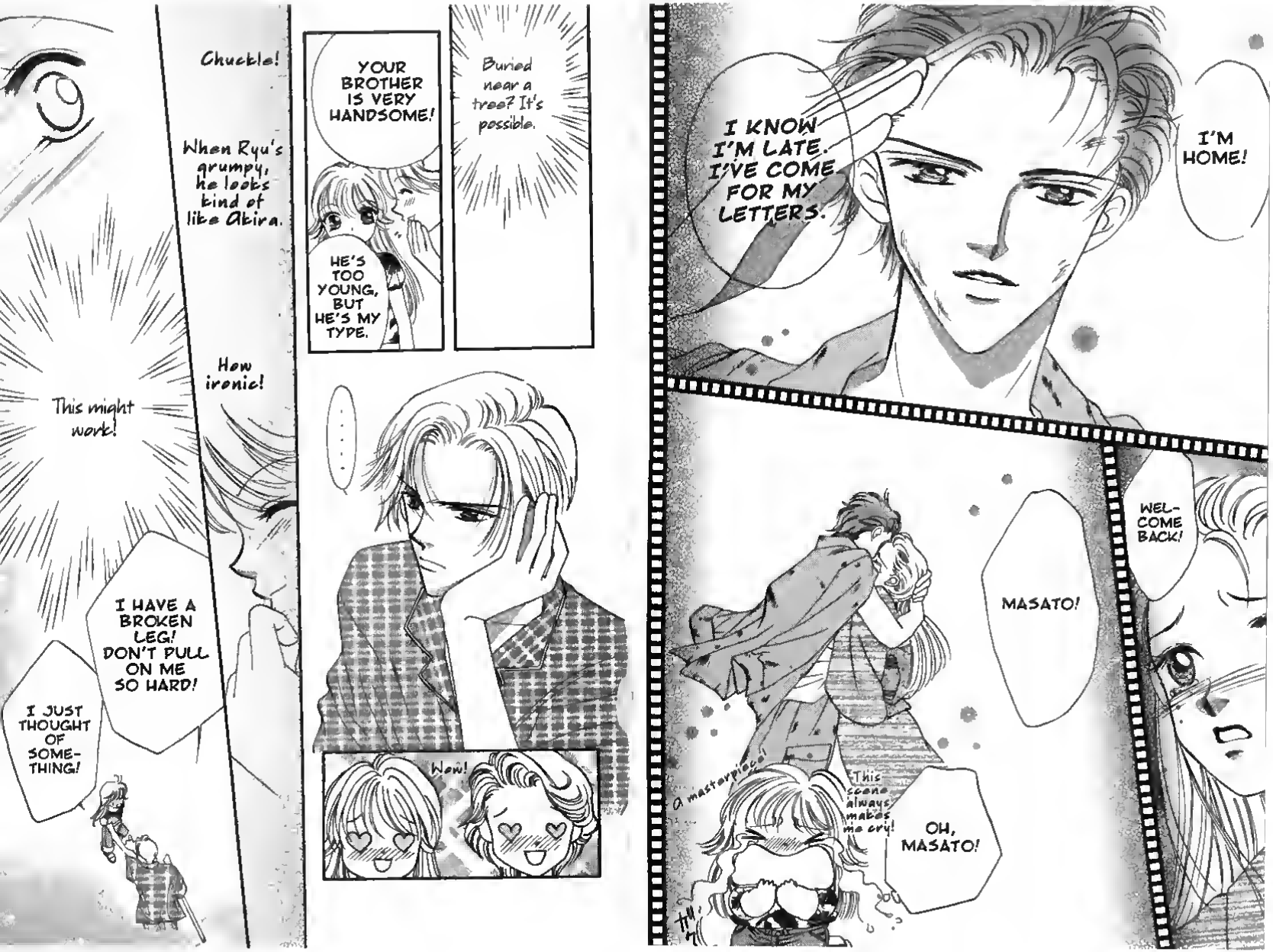
OH, I FORGOT TO ASK!
RYU, WHO IS THIS GIRL?
YOU LOOK ALIKE!
SEE! I WAS RIGHT!
HOT
HEAVY
COUPLE
PHEW! SHE'S HIS SISTER!
I was gonna kick her butt if she was his girlfriend!
Thank you for asking!
ACTUALLY, SHE'S MY...
SISTER, RIGHT?

HE'LL BE FINE. HE LOVES KIDS.
HE MAKES MY JOB EASIER,
BUT I HOPE THIS ISN'T MAKING HIS INJURIES WORSE...
My turn! No, I haven't kissed him yet, so it's my turn!
YES.
UMM, HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING HERE FOR A WHILE?
I WAS HOSPITALIZED HERE TEN YEARS AGO. I STARTED WORKING SHORTLY AFTER THAT.
ANY FAMILY ?
MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY, AND I WAS THE ONLY CHILD, SO I'M ALONE.
No, Mom! I'm right here!
I'll ask about the tape!
...
I'M FLY-ING!
I'm next!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!

YOU HAVE FUZZ ON YOUR FACE. LET ME GET IT!
LET'S GO, RYU!
HEY!
I'M NOT FINISHED ...
KYAAAAA!
RYU!
HE MIGHT BE YOUR BROTHER, BUT YOU DON'T OWN HIM!
Huff!
Wow! What a little brat!
Ryu can play with the kids.

MY DARLING!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME MY MOM AND DAD CO-STARRED IN A MOVIE TOGETHER.
...THERE WAS A MOVIE LIKE THAT CALLED, "FOR YOU."
IT'S SET IN WORLD WAR II, AND SHE BURIES THEIR LOVE LETTERS NEAR A TREE IN THE FINAL SCENE.
MASATO .. YOU'RE ALIVE!

That must be Sanae.
BUT HE'S GAY.
HA HA!
HA!
REALLY? A CUTE GUY?
A REALLY CUTE GUY COMES TO VISIT THE MOST.
MY FRIENDS STILL VISIT OCCA-SIONALLY.
MY SCHOOL IS HAVING A TREASURE HUNT.
WHERE WOULD YOU HIDE SOMETHING VALUABLE?
I have an idea!
!
ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?
I'M A SOPHO-MORE.
WAIT, THIS IS FOR SCHOOL! IN THAT CASE...
UNDER A SECRET TREE.
!!
SORT OF.
YOU MUST BE ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE!
LET'S SEE...
I'D BURY IT UNDER-NEATH A TREE.


Chuckle!
When Ryu's grumpy, he looks kind of like Akira.
How ironic!
This might work!
I HAVE A BROKEN LEG! DON'T PULL ON ME SO HARD!
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING!
YOUR BROTHER IS VERY HANDSOME!
HE'S TOO YOUNG, BUT HE'S MY TYPE.
Buried near a tree? It's possible.
. . .
Wow!
I KNOW I'M LATE. I'VE COME FOR MY LETTERS.
I'M HOME!
MASATO!
WELCOME BACK!
A masterpiece!
This scene always makes me cry!
OH, MASATO!

I'M SORRY!
IT MIGHT HELP ME GET INFORMA-TION.
I REFUSE TO DO THIS!
Ooops!
はっ
SAY WHAT?
YUNIKO...
I DIDN'T WANT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE TO THINK WE LOOK ALIKE.

WELL, I HAVE MY LIMITS!
YOU SAID YOU'D HELP ME!
?!
I THOU-GHT...
MOM SAID YOU WERE CUTE!
I DON'T THINK SO!! I'M NOT DOING THIS!
LET'S GO HOME AND STUDY HIS MOVIES TONIGHT!
SHE MIGHT REMEMBER SOMETHING IF SHE THINKS YOU'RE AKIRA!
YOU KIND OF LOOK LIKE AKIRA WHEN YOU FROWN.
NO! I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND TO BE AKIRA!

I'll dig around the trees near the hospital.
I guess I'm on my own!
I just might find the tape!
MOUNTAINS EVERYWHERE.
I'll just start digging! I'll think while I dig!

Ryu ...
What should I do now?
I AM RYU EBA, THE ACTOR!
I'LL NEVER PRETEND TO BE AKIRA! EVER!

YUNI!
THERE YOU ARE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MOM...
UH, MAIKO!
NOT QUITE...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR MOTHER!
IT'S GETTING DARK, AND IT'S RAINING!

I guess...
...I'll have to just ask her.
I'M LOOKING FOR A TAPE...
...THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BURIED UNDERNEATH A TREE!
WHAT?!

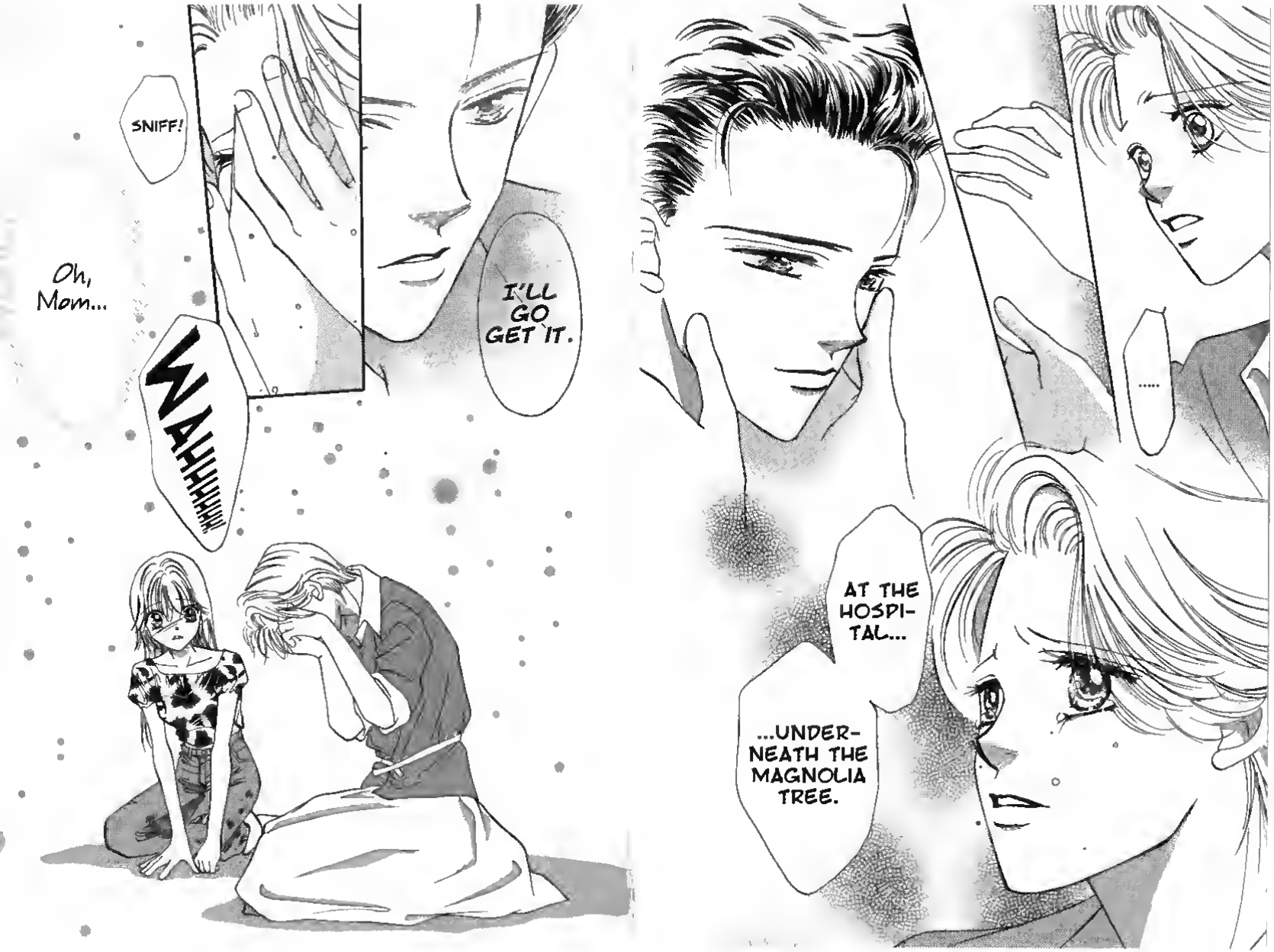
WHOA!
I CAN'T FIND IT!
NO TAPE! NOT EVEN AN EARTH-WORM!
THIS SUCKS!
HOW DO I GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL?
UH...
RYU!
HELP ME, KAMUI!

It can't be!
It's Akira Nanae!!
It's Ryu!
Whaaat?!
MAIKO.
!!

He's...
...so cool!
くだけ
MAIKO...
Mom!
The expression, the clothes... just like the movie!
I hardly recognize Ryu.
No way...
Ryu's dressed like Akira!!

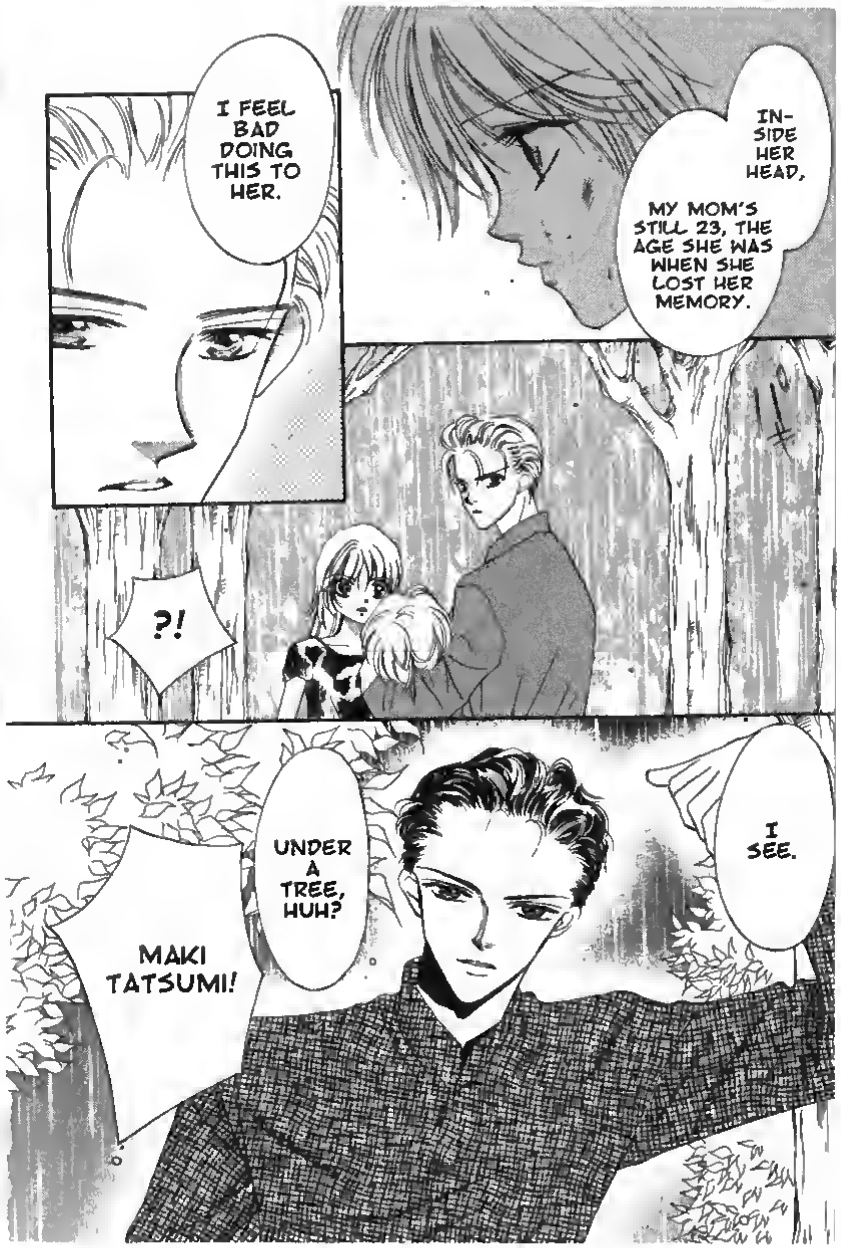
THE... TAPE?
Yuniko's utterly shocked.
I KNOW I'M LATE. I'VE COME FOR THE TAPE.
I'M HOME!

WILL YOU TELL ME WHERE IT IS, MAIKO?
YOU BURIED IT UNDER A TREE, RIGHT?
YES, THE TAPE.


SNIFF!
I'LL GO GET IT.
Oh, Mom...
WAHHHHH
.....
AT THE HOSPITAL...
...UNDERNEATH THE MAGNOLIA TREE.

THE TAPE IS UNDER THE MAGNOLIA TREE.
BUT IT'S AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE YOU WERE BORN IN NISHI IZU.
THANK YOU.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
RYU...
WE'LL TALK LATER. WE HAVE TO CARRY MAIKO BACK.
MOM!
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS.
MAYBE THIS WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER TO HANDLE.

IMPER-
SONATING
AKIRA...
...TO
FIND THE
LOCATION
OF THE
TAPE...
RYU,
THAT WAS
PHENO-
MENAL.
EXCUSE
ME?!
YOU'RE
REALLY
"THE NEW
NANAE!"
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!
CHILL OUT!


I FEEL
BAD
DOING
THIS TO
HER.
IN-
SIDE
HER
HEAD,
MY MOM'S
STILL 23, THE
AGE SHE WAS
WHEN SHE
LOST HER
MEMORY.
?!
MAKI
TATSUMI!
UNDER
A
TREE,
HUH?
I
SEE.

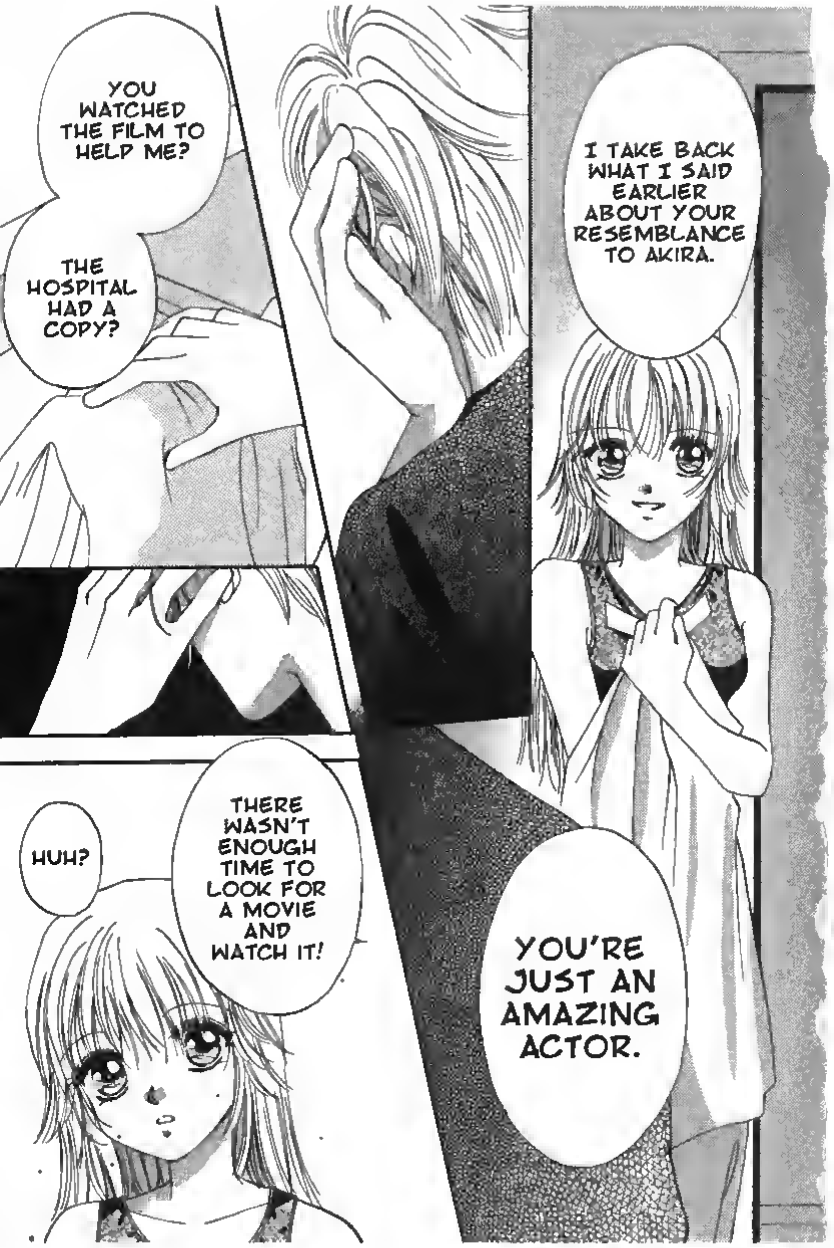
WE NEED TO GO HOME TO PACK AND GO STRAIGHT TO IZU.
YEAH.
My first trip with Kamui!
If we don't hurry, Maki will find it first!
Kamui
WE'LL BE BACK!
POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK?
YOU'RE A SLIMEBALL.
WE WORKED SO HARD TO GET THAT INFORMATION.
STOP IT, YUNIKO!
WHAT?!
That's it! You're gonna get it right now!
JERK!
I'LL BURY YOU UNDERNEATH A TREE BEFORE YOU DO!
SORRY, BUT I WILL FIND THE TAPE BEFORE YOU DO.

SHE'S NAKED!
GET OUT!
SHHH! NOT SO LOUD!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
You were the one running around naked!
I was too late
JUST KIDDING.
BOTTICELLI'S VENUS.

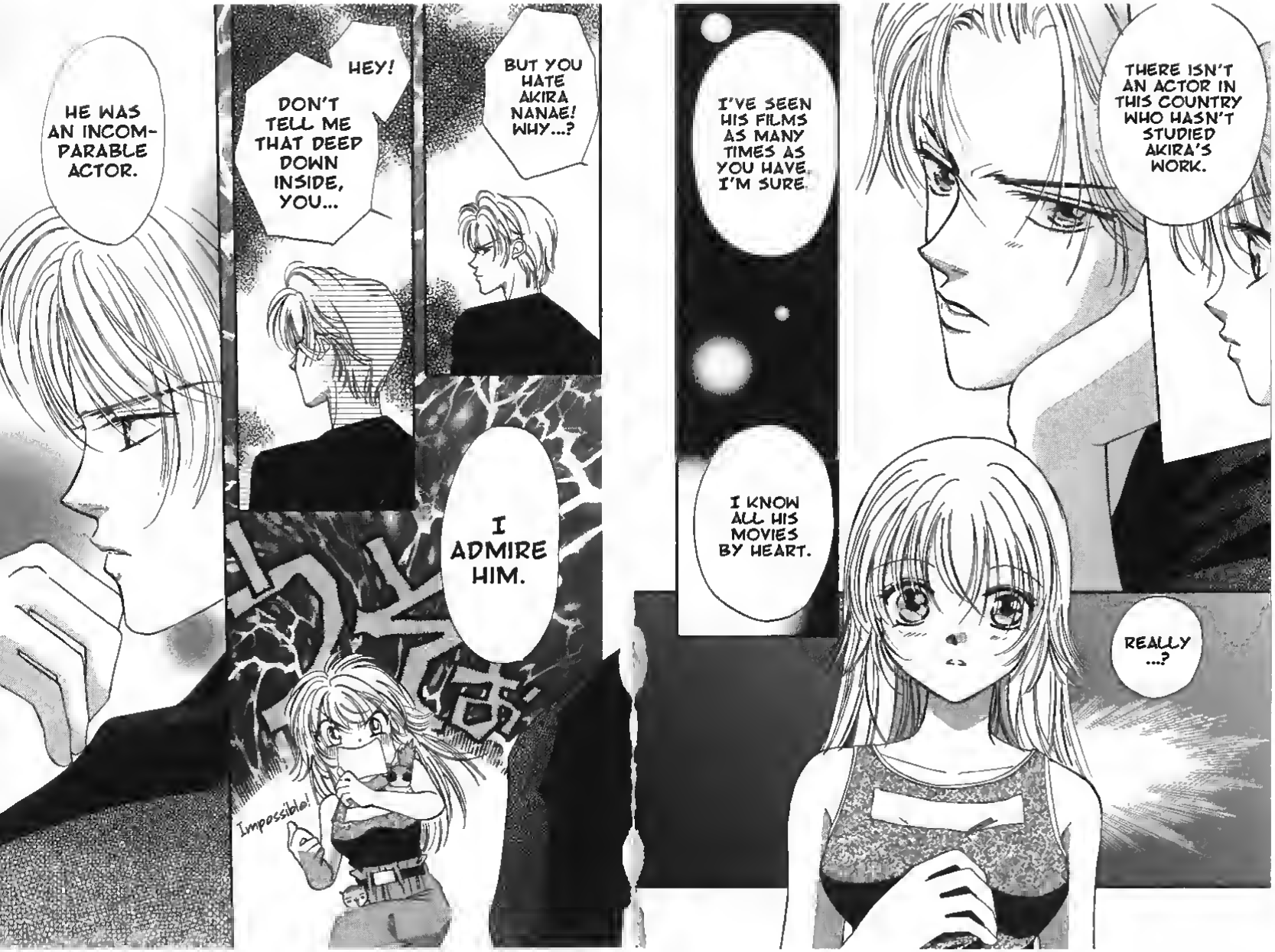
I FORGOT MY TOWEL!
KAMUI, GET ME A TOWEL!
HE CAN'T DO THAT!
SLAM!
YUNIKO, A SHOVEL AND A FLASHLIGHT...
ARGH! I FEEL SO STUPID, DIGGING UNDER THE TREES NEAR THAT HOSPITAL!
THE TAPE WOULD BE BURIED WHERE THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE.
IT WOULD BE AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE I WAS BORN!

GET DRESSED.
He can be strangely mature at times.

STOP IT!
YOU ARE SUCH A GUY!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
JUST ERASE THAT FROM YOUR MEMORY, OKAY?
IT WAS DARK. I COULDN'T SEE A THING.
YOU SAW ME RUNNING AROUND NUDE!
...YOU'RE PRETTY. THERE'S NO REASON TO HIDE.
BESIDES ...
EH


YOU WATCHED THE FILM TO HELP ME?
THE HOSPITAL HAD A COPY?
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID EARLIER ABOUT YOUR RESEMBLANCE TO AKIRA.
YOU'RE JUST AN AMAZING ACTOR.
HUH?
THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO LOOK FOR A MOVIE AND WATCH IT!

RYU,
I WAS SPEECH-LESS.
YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE AKIRA.
THE COSTUME, EVERY-THING...
IT WAS BREATH-TAKING.
YOU HAVE SO MUCH TALENT.
AKIRA WAS FIVE YEARS OLDER WHEN HE PLAYED THAT ROLE.
YOU WERE FLAWLESS!

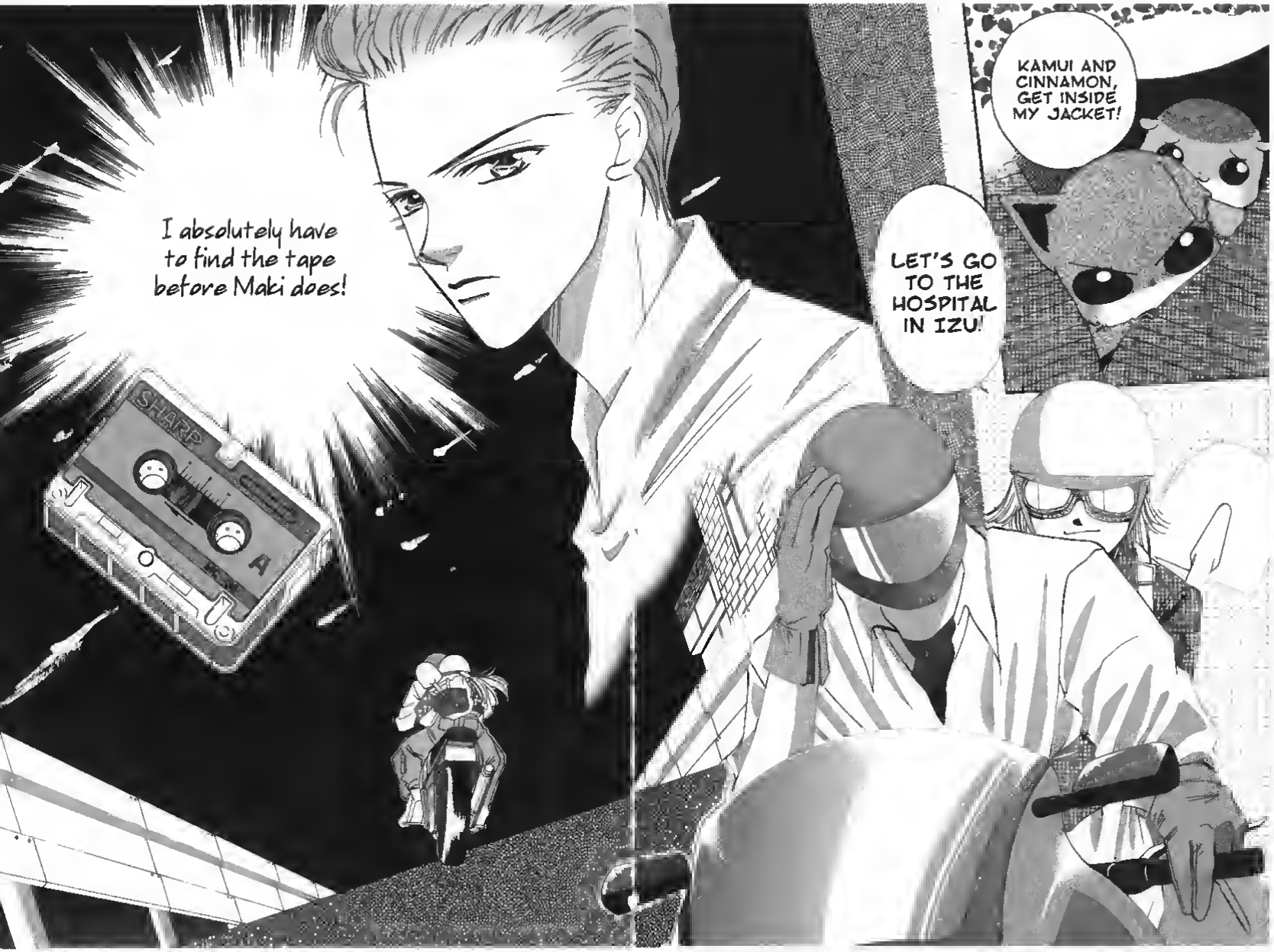

HE WAS AN INCOMPARABLE ACTOR.
HEY! DON'T TELL ME THAT DEEP DOWN INSIDE, YOU...
BUT YOU HATE AKIRA NANAE! WHY...?
I ADMIRE HIM.
Impossible!
I'VE SEEN HIS FILMS AS MANY TIMES AS YOU HAVE, I'M SURE.
I KNOW ALL HIS MOVIES BY HEART.
THERE ISN'T AN ACTOR IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HASN'T STUDIED AKIRA'S WORK.
REALLY ...?

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SETTLE FOR BEING THE "NEW NANAE."
I WANT TO BE KNOWN AS RYU EBA, THE ACTOR.

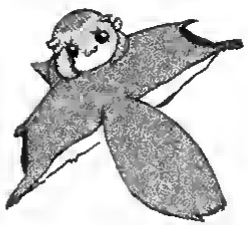
BUT I HATE BEING COMPARED TO HIM.
WHAT'S THE POINT?
EVERY CHARACTER HE PLAYED WAS BRILLIANTLY NATURAL.
HE PUT HIS HEART INTO EVERY LINE.
HIS CHARISMA WAS EVIDENT IN EVERY ROLE.
HIS WORDS WERE LIKE SUBLIME POETRY.

I can't put it into words, but...
Ryu doesn't hate him...
...I think I understand Ryu's issues with Akira now.

I'LL FORGET ABOUT SEEING YOU NAKED IF YOU FORGET ABOUT WHAT I SAID.
OKAY. LET'S GO.
Ryu...


I absolutely have to find the tape before Maki does!
SHARP
A
KAMUI AND CINNAMON, GET INSIDE MY JACKET!
LET'S GO TO THE HOSPITAL IN IZU!

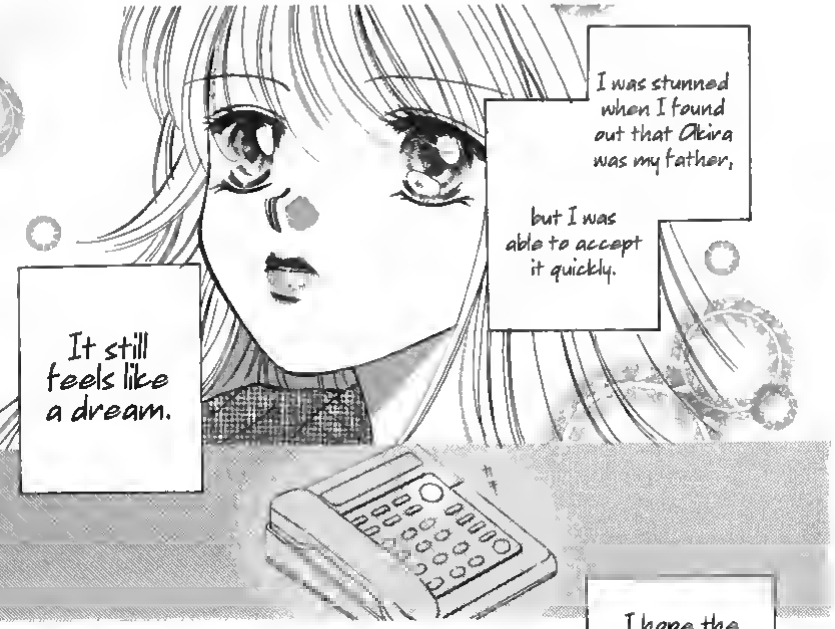
WE'RE HERE. SEE THE HOSPITAL BEHIND THE TREES?
I was born inside this hospital.



YOU SEARCH AROUND THE HOSPITAL.
WE'LL SPLIT UP AND LOOK. I'VE GOT MY NAVI-GATORS!
I'LL SEARCH IN THE WOODS.
Huff!
Smile!
?!
This is so cool!
WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM, DON'T YOU THINK?
I THINK WE'RE GETTING GOOD AT THIS.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN AKIRA'S STUFF.
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

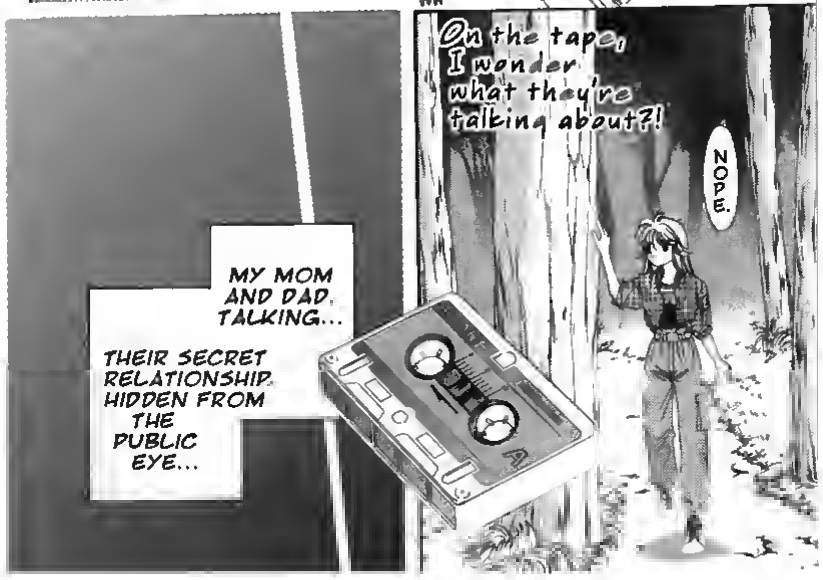
...a jerk like him has no right to listen to the tape!
JERK
Besides,
UNDER A MAGNOLIA TREE? THIS PLACE IS SUR-ROUNDED BY TREES!
He's helping me look for my dad's memorabilia!
I'm kind of touched by Ryu's help.
The tape of my parents talking is here!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE!
Right! I have to find the tape before that jerk does!
Weekly Woman
Found! The daughter of late, legendary "Akira Nanae!"
FOUND!! AKIRA NANAE'S DAUGHTER!!
If the media gets the tape, all hell will break loose!
Is she the late Akira Nanae's daughter?
SHE'S RYU EBA'S SECRET LOVER!
Extreme! Talk Sho
This is shockin news!

Because I love you...
YOU THINK IT'S STUPID TO BE A BIG FAN OF AKIRA'S!
YOU'RE THE MORON. NOT ME!
HUH?
What was that for?
YOU WISH.
MAYBE YOUR RESPECT FOR THE MAN IS GROWING...
THEN WHY ARE YOU SO SERIOUS?
Yeah, right. I know you admire him...
YOU CAN BE SO DENSE.
DID YOU SAY I WAS DENSE?!


I was stunned when I found out that Akira was my father,
but I was able to accept it quickly.
It still feels like a dream.

I hope the tape provides proof of my parents' love for each other.
Will the tape prove that I was their daughter?
I love you, Maiko...
And the baby, too...

SHE BURIED THE TAPE NEAR IT...
...SO IT'S PROBABLY EASY TO SPOT.
KAMUI, CINNAMON! LOOK FOR THIS TREE!
A page from an encyclopedia.
Right now...
...I need to find the magnolia tree.
Can we find it?


MY MOM AND DAD TALKING...
THEIR SECRET RELATIONSHIP. HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC EYE...
On the tape, I wonder what they're talking about?!
NOPE!

Maki Tatsumi!!
!!

We did it!
Good job, Kamui!
Did he find it?!
It's Kamui!

He fell for it!
I got him!
No mercy!
!!
If I run away, he'll find the tape!

WHO'S THERE?!
!
A PICK-POCKET? OUT HERE?
THAT WASN'T JUST A KID...
BUT...
OVER THERE!
He's here already?!

STOP!
WHA--!

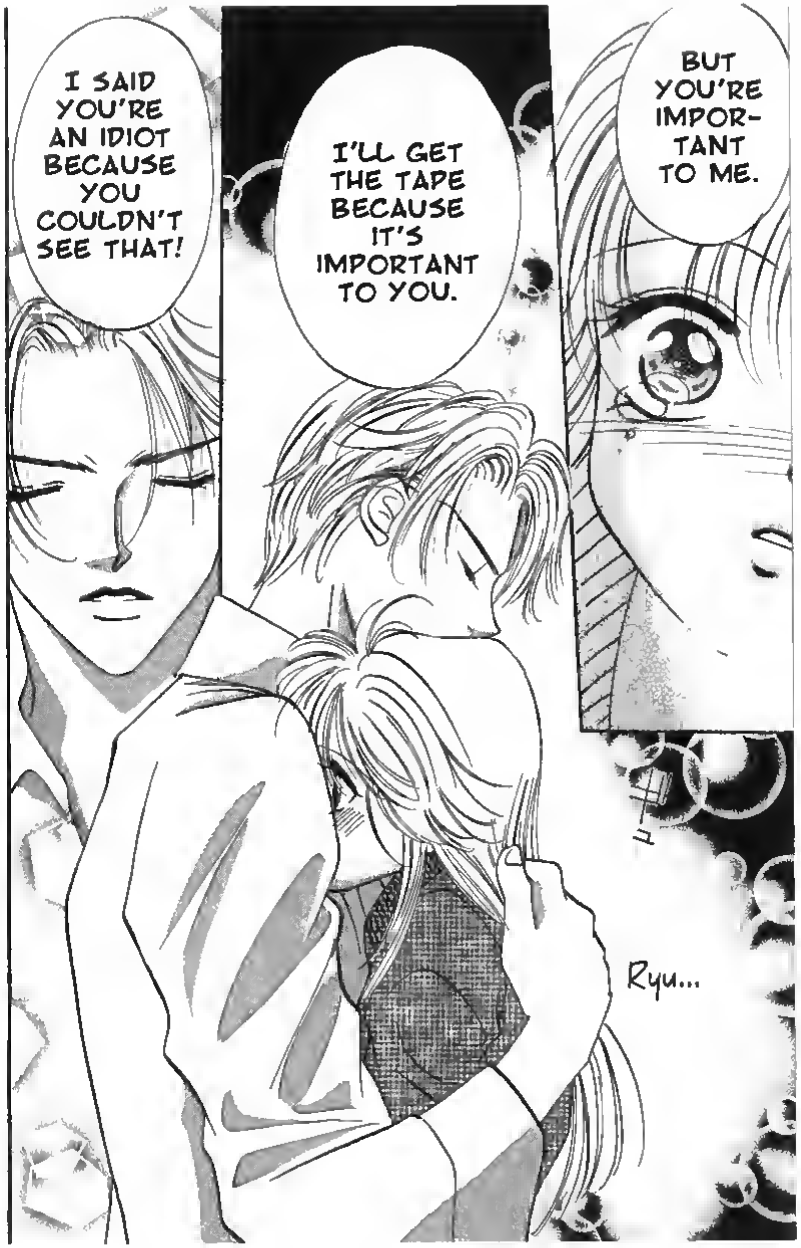
AN ATTACKER OUT IN THE WOODS.
I FIGURED IT WOULD BE YOU OR RYU!
UH...
!
I WAS RIGHT!
WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?

NO!
.....
This can't be...
HE'S BEEN DIG-GING...
!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
YUNIKO! I HEARD KAMUI--
ARE YOU HURT?
MAKI...
LOOK UNDER THE TREE!
!!!

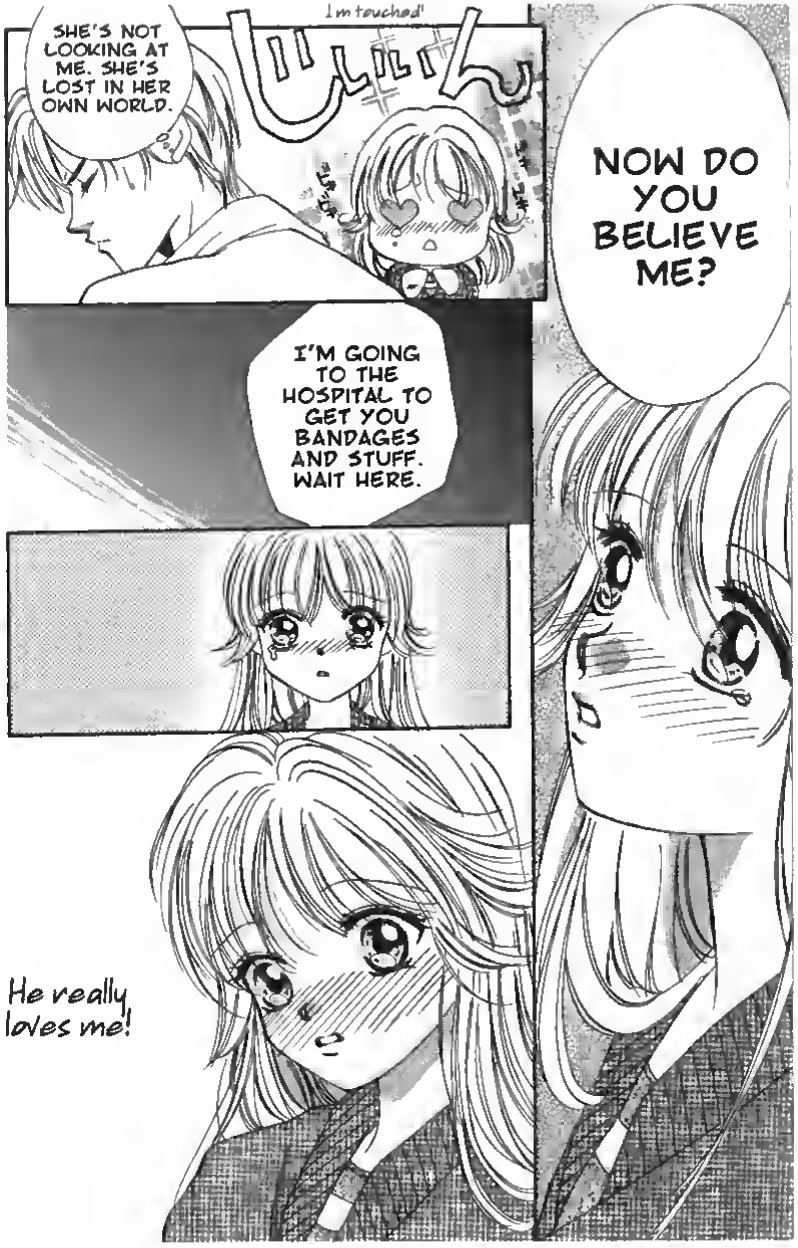
SNIFF!
I can't lose that!
My mom and dad's voices that I've never heard before...
SNIFF!
SOB!
That jerk doesn't deserve it!!
.....
THAT'S RIGHT... I DON'T CARE.
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT AKIRA'S STUFF.
I'LL GO GET THE TAPE.

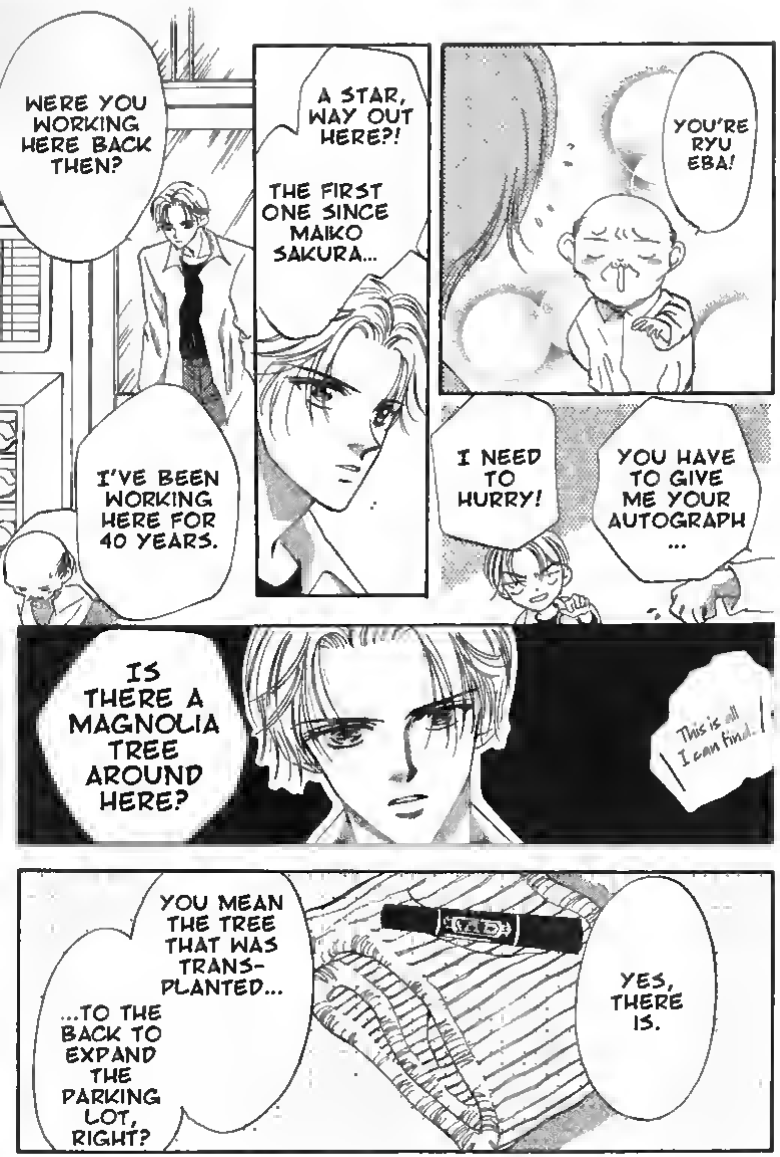
IF WE CHASE AFTER HIM NOW...
YUNIKO, YOUR ARM!
WAIT! YOU'RE BLEEDING!
DON'T BE STUPID!
DO YOU WANNA BLEED TO DEATH?
NO, YOU'RE NOT!
I'LL BE FINE! WE HAVE TO--
HE HAS THE TAPE!!
YEAH, I'M STUPID!
THE TAPE OF MY FATHER'S VOICE!
BUT THE TAPE!

SHOULD I BE?
SO YOU'RE NOT JUST AFTER MY BODY?
I LOVE YOU.


I SAID YOU'RE AN IDIOT BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T SEE THAT!
I'LL GET THE TAPE BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU.
BUT YOU'RE IMPOR-TANT TO ME.
Ryu...

!!
THE HAPPY COUPLE.
MAKI!
THAT MIGHT BE A BIGGER SCOOP!


I'm touched!
SHE'S NOT LOOKING AT ME. SHE'S LOST IN HER OWN WORLD.
I'M GOING TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET YOU BANDAGES AND STUFF. WAIT HERE.
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
He really loves me!


WERE YOU WORKING HERE BACK THEN?
I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR 40 YEARS.
A STAR, WAY OUT HERE?!
THE FIRST ONE SINCE MAIKO SAKURA...
YOU'RE RYU EBA!
I NEED TO HURRY!
YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH ...
IS THERE A MAGNOLIA TREE AROUND HERE?
This is all I can find...!
YOU MEAN THE TREE THAT WAS TRANS-PLANTED...
...TO THE BACK TO EXPAND THE PARKING LOT, RIGHT?
YES, THERE IS.

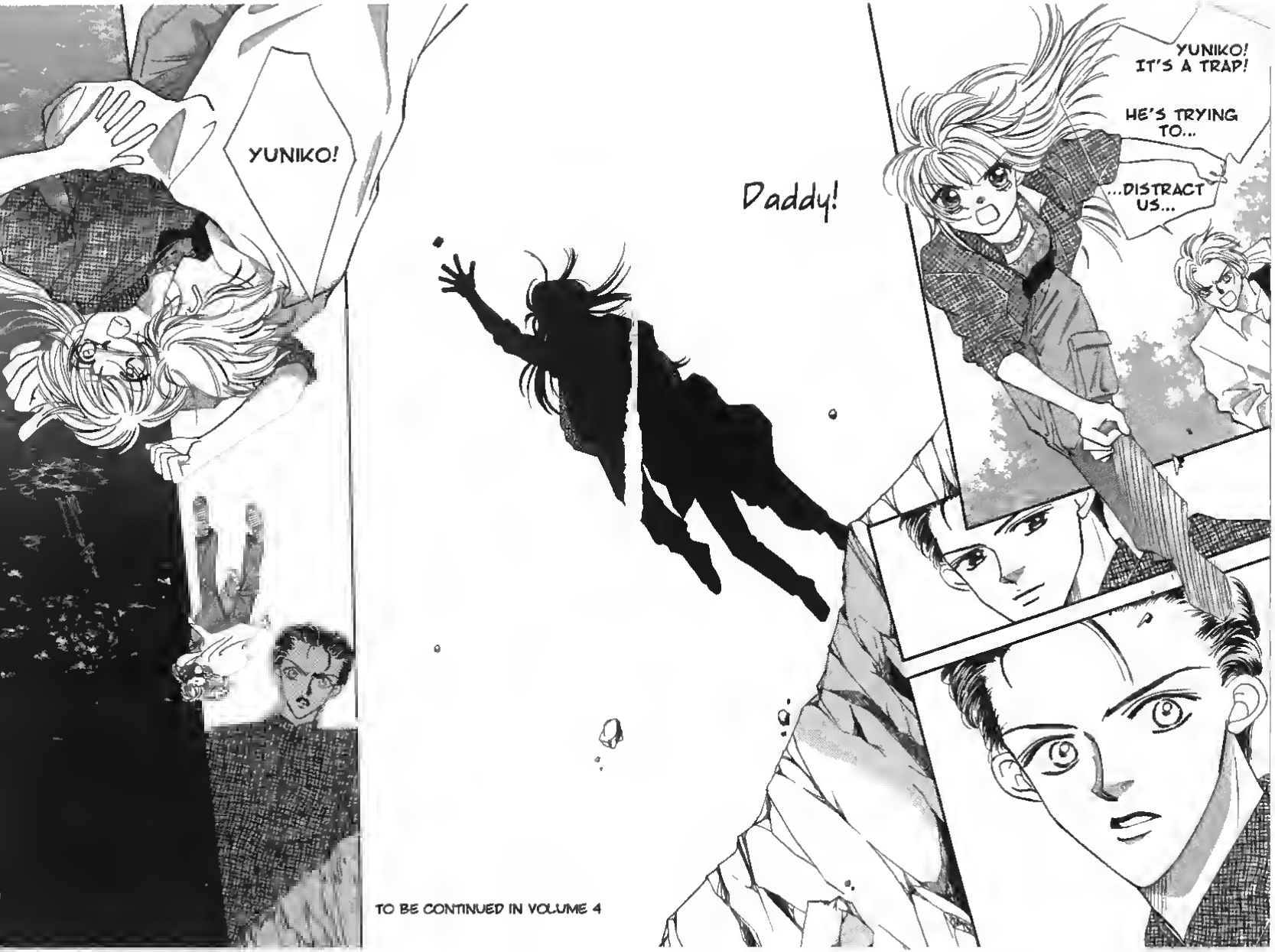
HELLO! ANYBODY!
EXCUSE ME. ARE YOU STILL OPEN?
MY FRIEND'S INJURED. I NEED A FIRST-AID KIT.
HI!
WHO IS IT? DO YOU KNOW HOW LATE IT IS?
はっ
WOW!
IS THERE A DOCTOR OR A NURSE AVAILABLE?

TELL ME WHAT'S ON THE TAPE!
LISTEN! THE TAPE DOESN'T PROVE THAT YOU'RE AKIRA'S DAUGHTER.
DID YOU COME BACK TO SHOW OFF?
WHAT?!
GET RID OF WHAT?
I THOUGHT IF I WAS GOING TO GET RID OF IT, YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT.

....!!
IT'S RIGHT HERE.
YOU FOUND THE TAPE, RIGHT?!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?!

DON'T!
WELL, HAVE FUN SEARCHING IN THE OCEAN!
HUH ?!

STOP, YUNIKO!
RYU!
!!
THAT TAPE IS A FAKE!
!!
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 4

COMING SOON

WILD ABC

VOLUME FOUR

Yuniko and Ryu rush off to find a tape of Akira and Maiko's telephone conversation. The tape could contain proof that Akira is Yuniko's father, and they have to find it before Maki does! The race is on...and it's a mad dash to the finish. In the meantime, family secrets are revealed that leave Yuniko feeling more confused than ever. Will Yuniko ever discover the truth about her past...?

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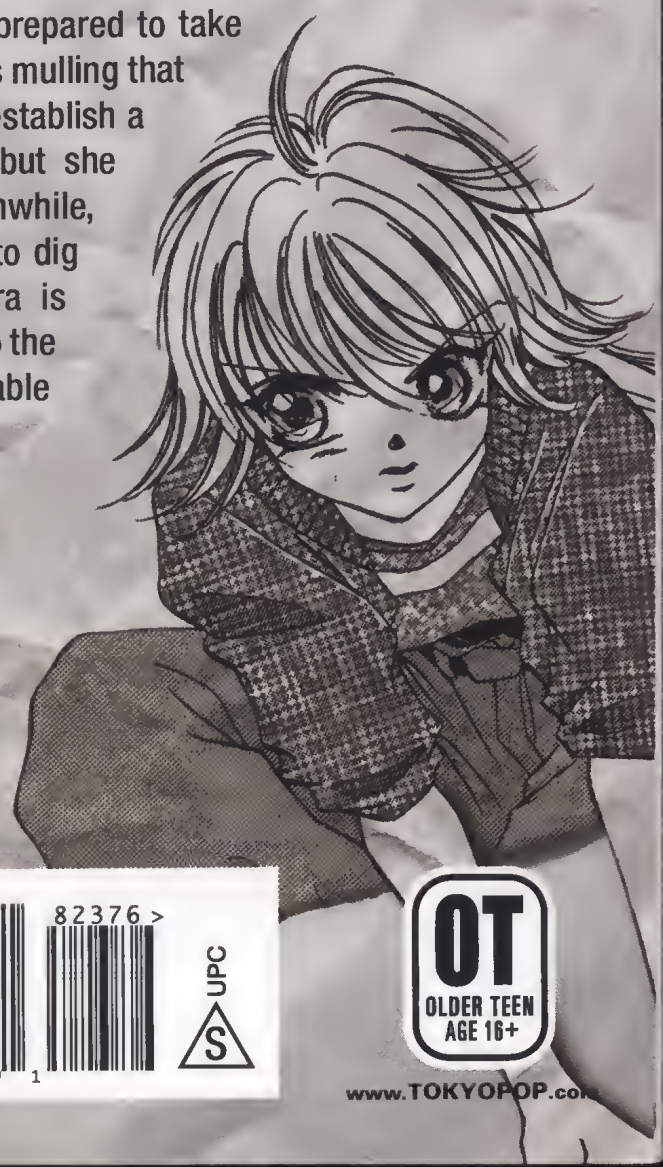
Wild Act™

Onward and Upward

Now that Yuniko has learned Akira Nanae is her real father, she has to come to terms with the truth. Once Ryu goes away to promote his latest movie, Yukino has time to be alone with her thoughts. She decides she must accept the truth and move on with her life. In fact, she decides she's finally ready to go all the way with the new love…but is she truly prepared to take things to the next level?! As she's mulling that over, Yuniko continues to try to establish a relationship with her mother…but she still doesn't remember her. Meanwhile, Maki is bound and determined to dig up concrete evidence that Akira is Yuniko's father so he can sell it to the tabloids. Will Yuniko and Ryu be able to stop Maki in time?!



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